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A NEW  
JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
GREECE, ITALY,  
EGYPT, SWISSERLAND,  
PALESTINE, ALSATIA,  
AND THE  
NETHERLANDS.

Written by a *French* OFFICER, who travelled  
those Countries in the Years, 1721, 1722,  
and 1723.

*Now first done into* ENGLISH.

L O N D O N :

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POURBANEY

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P R E F A C E



# PREFACE.

**W**HEN I wrote the following Letters to my Friend, I did not think of making 'em publick; not that I plead this by way of Excuse for any Faults that may be met with; Writing is not my Province, and Polite Literature is not expected from one who from his Youth has been bred up in the exercise of Arms.

As most People of Fashion have seen Italy, and are very well acquainted with its several Towns, it wou'd have been impertinent to have repeated too much of what is so generally known.

There is scarce any Body that has not read or heard that the Plains of Nice in Provence are as delicious as they are fruitful; and that the Town of Monaco which is meanly inhabited and poorly fortified, would be of very great service to

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the French, notwithstanding which it belongs to a Nobleman of the House of Grimaldi, who to the great regret of his Family, has transferr'd it to the House of Matignon, by the marriage of his eldest Daughter to the Count de Thorigni.

The Republick of Genoa is as well known as is its form of Government. The eight and twenty chief Families equally support their several Credits and Interests, and the Town itself is well peopled, but the Inhabitants have a greater Veneration for the Spaniards than the French.

I have not mentioned the Inhabitants of Lucca, who live in their little Republick like honest and quiet People in a private Family; and if I have dwelt more upon the Beauties of Florence than upon the House de Medicis, 'tis because Readers private or publick, are more desirous of being inform'd what sumptuous Edifices there are in such a noble City, than to know any thing concerning a Prince



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Prince who has lost all Hopes of seeing  
himself revive in his Posterity  
I have said nothing of the ancient  
Government of Venice, or of its Founda-  
tion these being more properly the busi-  
ness of an Historian, than of a Travel-  
ler, who is barely to relate Matters of  
Fact: And the Ceremonies of the Doge's  
espousing the Sea in so solemn and so pom-  
pous a manner, are too well known to  
need repeating.

Before my arrival at Corfu, I heard  
very much of the Ruins of a Temple of  
Jupiter that I was to find at our Lady  
of Cassopo, but I could not see the least  
Remains of it; nor did I stay to examin  
the Miracles perform'd by an Image of  
the blessed Virgin near the Place where  
this Temple stood, I heard 'em related, and  
did not think it my Business to examine  
farther into 'em.

I was told too that I should find the  
Ruins of two Houses at Lerigo, whose ve-  
ry Stones I shou'd reverence, they having  
belong'd, one to Venus, the other to the  
beau-

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beauteous Helen; but when I saw 'em they appear'd to me two such miserable Hovels, that I did not think it worth while to mention them.

At Ithaca we find no Inscription, no Monument, but heaps of Stones; however, if we wou'd believe certain Greeks, always ready to impose upon credulous Travellers, we shou'd look upon the Isle of Thiaki as the Place of Ulysses's Residence, and the Remains of a Castle there they wou'd put upon us for that Prince's Palace; some Antiquarians of the same Stamp, wou'd point you out a Pleasure-house of Penelope's, upon the Isle of St. Maurice, and shew you the Place where her King was murder'd by a Son he had by Circe. The absurdity of these Stories has been sufficiently shewn by Demet. Bernizelo, a learned Athenian; Penelope never had any House there, and Ulysses, as he was preparing to sail for Cephalaria (call'd Samos by Homer) was murder'd in a Port which is now more than half fill'd up in Izola di Compare, the true Ithaca. As

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to the situation of these Islands, we have no Reason to be satisfied with Strabo's Account; most of our modern Geographers fall into the very same Errors, spite of the Complaints made, and the Relations given every Day by so many learned Men.

I have not distinguished in my Work the greater from the lesser Isle of Delos, tho' Homer and several other Poets have made so much mention of 'em, I found 'em entirely destitute of those Beauties which wou'd give me any Idea of the magnificent Edifices there; and I think I can say nothing more justly of 'em than that there are large Piles of Stones to be found there, and nothing more.

All the fine Edifices that were at Ephesus, are so entirely destroy'd that I chose not to mention 'em. Nor did I visit Troy, having been fully assured I should find nothing there worth my Curiosity.

The little I saw of the GARDENS famous for a Victory of Alexander's did not encourage me to speak of it, for I found that River wholly dried up. But I shall  
never



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never forgive myself for not having visited the Mounts Parnassus and Ida, altho' I am satisfy'd I shou'd have found nothing worth seeing but the Mountains themselves.

Not to particularize any more Places that I have not seen, or have not thought worth mentioning, I will at once assure my Reader that I have not advanced any thing but upon my own Knowledge, nor once related strange and wonderful Stories upon the Testimony of another; my Descriptions are True and Sincere. Some things there are which I ought to have mentioned and have forgot; therefore I wou'd not have any one conclude, that, because I have not spoke of 'em, there are no such Things in being: I heartily wish that whoever reads this little Work, may be as well pleased with my manner of Writing as they ought to be with my Impartiality.



A  
New JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
GREECE, &c.

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LETTER I.

Genoa, May 24, 1720.



YOU know, Sir, that I have long since flatter'd myself with the hopes of seeing the Countries of the *Levant*; I am now about to satisfy my Curiosity, and have been a whole Month on my Journey hither. I stay'd some few Days at *la Rochelle*, where the Count de Chamilly, Governor General of the *Upper* and *Lower Poitou*, and of the Countries of *Aunis* and

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and *Xaintonges*, lives in a most sumptuous manner. *La Rochelle*, which Roman Authors call *Rupella*, is perpetually embellishing by the new Buildings, which they daily raise in its Suburbs. This City is as considerable, and its Trade in a much more flourishing Condition than ever; and that surprizing Mole, rais'd by the Cardinal de *Richelieu* to bound the Ocean, and prevent the Duke of *Buckingham's* relieving the Town when it was besieg'd by *Lewis XIII.*, will justly be admir'd by latest Posterity. When the Town was taken, its Fortifications were demolish'd, nor have they since been repair'd; and the Inhabitants, at that time having forfeited their Charter and best Privileges, have not yet been able to recover them. *La Rochelle* is not only a Bishop's See, but they have a pre-sidial or special Court of Judicature there, and a Sovereign Court over all the Salt-Works of the Western Ocean. They coin Money there too; and its Port, which is defended by two old Towers, is always pretty well fill'd with Ships. The Port of *Rochefort*, which I visited in my way to *Oleron*, is by much the finest; nor is there the least Comparison to be made: But if what is reported of it be true, that all our Ships rot there, in all probability, it will soon be forsaken. The Isle of *Oleron*, upon the Coast of *Xaintonges*, is the *Olarion* of *Sidonius Apollinaris*.

Its



Its Length is about four Leagues, its Circumference ten. The Country is pleasant and fruitful, and its Inhabitants live in great plenty. The Town itself is melancholy and ill built; but its Cittadel is regularly fortified. *Marennes* is a Borough famous for its Salt-Pits, and the Freedom of its Inhabitants; and they are not much better Catholics there than at *Oleron* and *Royan*. The last of these Places, of which the House of *la Trimouille* are Lords, is not so famous for its Beauty, as for the Fertility of its Soil and the Herring Fishery. From *Royan*, which has only a little Harbour fit for the Vessels of that Neighbourhood, I went in a Day to *Bordeaux*, the Capital of the Province of *Guienne*. This City is one of the largest, and its Trade the greatest, in the Kingdom; nor is it more famous in the *French* than in the *Roman* History. We still see a Palace there which belong'd to the Emperor *Gallien*, and the Remains of a Temple dedicated to the Guardian Gods. The River *Garonne* is border'd with a fine Key; and the Tide ebbs and flows, insomuch that Ships of the greatest Burden come up into the Port; which they call the Moon, from its being shaped like a Crescent. Those, who are Judges of such Works as these, admire it; as they do also the Archbishop's Palace, the Town-House, the *Carthusian* Monastery and Nunnery, and

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the Terrass belonging to the *Capuchin* Friars. The Women here Dress very well, and have a great deal of Wit. The Men addict themselves to liberal Studies, and are brisk and lively, as their Wines are strong; and their Fire might sometimes be dangerous, were they not kept in awe by the Castle, call'd the *Trumpet*, defended by six good Bastions. The Marshal of *Berwick*, their Governor, is a Man who does not spend excessively amongst them, yet does he discharge the Duty of his Office very well, and has a pretty good Understanding with the People.

From *Bordeaux* the Waters of the *Garonne* carried me to *Langon*, whose Wines can never be relish'd but by those who do not understand Wine. In the Garden of the *Capuchin* Friars I found the magnificent Tomb of an ancient *Knight Templar*. From hence I pass'd thro' *Agen*, which has nothing remarkable in it but its *Hermitage*, and in three Days I arriv'd at *Toulouse*. If ever you go to that Place, I would advise you to take particular notice of a fine piece of Workmanship, an *Obelisk*, built upon the Fountain in *St. Stephen's Square*. There are other fine Edifices, the *Archbishop's Palace*, the *Town-House*, the Church of *St. Sernin*, the *Charnel-House* of the *Cordeliers*, and their *Dalbade*, built upon the Ruins of

an old Temple of the Sun; and the *Pont-neuf*, which may not perhaps be a disagreeable Object to you, tho' it be so much less than that of *Paris*. A Gentleman that comes here, ought to be caution'd beforehand never to play in the publick Assemblies, unless he be a profess'd Gamester; and to be told that the Ladies of the Place are very gallant, but at the same time very chargeable. The Men have naturally a great deal of Wit, they appear very genteel, and have a true Taste of Letters; and therefore it is not surprising that they should have had so many amongst them who have made considerable Figures in the learned World. The *Romans* once made this City beautiful, and afterwards ruin'd it themselves. According to their Chronicles, one of the *Roman* Lieutenants carried off the Treasure of that City, which was immense. Though the Story they tell of it be somewhat obscure and the Time uncertain, yet would I much rather chuse to believe it than the History of their Foundation, for which they assure us they are indebted to *Tholus*, a Nephew of *Japhet*. 'Tis in vain to contradict them, they are vain and headstrong, and won't easily be argued out of this Opinion. The Parliament of this Place is the second of the Kingdom, and the City large and beautiful.



I left *Toulouse*, and took Boat upon the Canal of *Languedoc*, a Work worthy our Admiration. In my way I saw the Towns of *Castelnaudari* and *Carcassone*, which are far from being handsome; but the Situation of *Beziere*s is very agreeable. 'Tis built upon a handsome Hill, which overlooks a vast and fruitful Country. Their Gardens are water'd by the River *Orb*; which, at the Hill's Foot, flowing into different Channels, forms several Islands. Every thing here is gay and smiling, and they strive to outvie each other in their Civility to Strangers. Their Wines are ripe and delicious; and they have most exquisite Fish and Game.

*Pliny* and *Ptolomy*, who, as well as several other Authors, call this Place by different Names, inform us that the *Romans* look'd upon it as a very considerable one, and built two Temples here to the Honour of *Augustus* and *Julia*. But the Ruins of these are not better taken care of and kept up than the Remains of a Palace that belong'd to one *Raymond Trincavel*, and afterwards to five or six other Viscounts, who, during the Decline of our second Race of Kings, usurp'd its Lordship.

The little Town of *Pezena* has nothing handsome but its Situation; and *Agde*, whose Bishoprick is pretty considerable, is a melancholy Place, and very poorly inhabited.

I staid

I staid but two Hours in it, which I spent in visiting the famous Pilgrimage of our Lady *du Gros*. The Borough of *Cote*, which grows bigger every Day, will some time be very considerable, through the convenient Situation of its Port, the Manufactures which are establish'd there, and the Sugar Bake-houses which they have built, insomuch that their Trade is in a very flourishing Condition. Here I went on board a *Genoese* Ship, which in thirty Hours reach'd *Marseilles*, whose Port is undoubtedly one of the most famous and most beautiful in *Europe*.

The City of *Marseilles* grew noted almost as soon as it was founded; and the *Romans*, who sought its Alliance, granted it very advantageous Privileges. The Town-House, new Street, and the Key, are worth seeing; as are also the outward Parts of the Town, which the Inhabitants call *Bastides*, and where they meet on *Sundays* and Holidays. In this delicious Country the People are all Gaiety, all Joy, and are seen dancing to the Musick of Flutes and Drums. In short, this City, which pretends to be indebted for its Foundation to a Colony of *Phocians*, has lost no part of its primitive Splendor. It has still noble Privileges belonging to it, is one of the most inhabited of any in *Europe*; and I know none more capable of doing the

Government real Service in any Case of necessity.

I visited the Port, the Arsenal, and Magazines of *Toulon*. The Town itself is far from being well built; nor can one propose any Pleasure by living in it, except from the Company of Marine and Sea Officers, of whom there are great Numbers. The Town of *Hyer* is very old and very tiresome. *Antibe* is well fortify'd; but far from being so agreeable as is *Nice*, whose Neighbourhood is charming; and to its pleasant Situation add, that every thing there is good and cheap. The Prince of *Monaco* has nothing remarkable in his Principality but his Orange-Walks, and his Gardens of *Manton*, which I thought very beautiful. I coasted all the River of *Genoa*; and as I pass'd by them, saw the Towns of *St. Reme*, *Port Maurice*, *Oneglia*, *Dian*, *Langueille*, *Savona* and *Final*, which are all very poorly peopled, and miserable Places. And on the eighth Day after my taking Shipping at *Marseilles*, I reach'd this Port, which is neither beautiful nor convenient.

*Genoa* is a large City, full of Inhabitants; but those a wicked Set of People. They divide their Nobility into two Classes; the Ancient, to whom they give the first Place, and the Modern: And in both there are very powerful Families; as that of *Doria* amongst the former, and in the latter that of *Durazzo*.

All



All the fine Palaces are in *Balbi* and *New* street, which are two fine open Streets; but the rest are narrow, dark, and miserably pav'd. I often divert myself with walking at *Doria* Palace, and at *St. Peter d' Arenne*; when you have seen that Part of the Town, with the Churches of *St. Cyr*, *St. Laurence*, and the *Arsenal*, which is within the Ducal Palace, you have seen almost every thing that is remarkable. Two Days ago a *Walloon* Colonel introduc'd me to Mr. *Imperiali* the Doge of this Republick, whose Subjects, from the greatest to the meanest, are all Traders. No Man here can have more Servants than the Number fix'd by their Rules; and gold and silver Laces are forbid, as are also rich Liveries. The Ladies here are of a very gallant Disposition, and as constant as in other Places; and they have every one their *Cigisbey*, as who should say a Friend, who generally proves very faithful, provided they are any thing tolerable. The Husbands are never jealous of the Friend; for it is a Custom that has been practis'd time out of mind in that Town, which is one of the most polite of *Europe*.

I supp'd last Night at the *Spanish* Commissary's, with Messieurs *Ogan* and *Misset*, who are two of the four Officers concern'd in stealing the Princess *Sobieski* out of *Inspruck*, where she was detain'd Prisoner. Little  
*Ogan*

Ogan is an *English* Gentleman who was taken at *Preston*, and who, by the Assistance of an old Woman, made his Escape; and Misset is an *Irish* Gentleman, and a Man of a great deal of Courage and Resolution, whom I remembred formerly a Captain in *France*, in *Ficheral's* Regiment. They are to go this very Night a Ship-board, in order to sail for *Spain*, in whose Service they have enter'd themselves; and, as they told the Story, there is no room to believe that the Emperor conniv'd at the Project which was form'd by four Officers to set Her at liberty, whom they look'd upon as their Queen. Major *Guaydon* was at *Shelestat*, when he receiv'd the *Chevalier de St. George's* Orders, and a considerable Sum of Money, to put any Scheme in execution which he might form for setting the Princess, his betroth'd Wife, at liberty. Thus empower'd, he communicated his Design to these Gentlemen I just mention'd; and Mr. *Misset's* Wife, tho' four Months gone with Child, would bear a Part in the Adventure. To this purpose they bought a good Berlin, and six fine able Horses, in which they went to *Inspruck*: But just before their reaching the Gates of that Place, they took care to break their Wheels, and were oblig'd consequently to stay in the Town till they could get their Berlin put into order again, and new Wheels made. This Time they did not lose; but  
seeking

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seeking out the publick Assemblies they soon got Access; and being lavish in their Expences, they were well receiv'd and look'd upon. They found an Opportunity of bribing a Nun, who deliver'd their Letters to the Princess, by which they acquainted her with their Design; and the same Nun brought them her Answers. The Hour fix'd, and all the proper Measures taken, they gave a very handsome Sum to a young Lais of the Town, whose Face and Shape were not unlike that of the Princess; and this pretty Wench boldly pass'd thro' the Hall and Anti-chamber, where the Governor of the Place had set a Guard to prevent her Escape, and coming into the Princess's Bed-chamber, who ever since the Notice given her by the Officers, had feign'd herself indispos'd, the young Woman got into Bed, and the Princess dress'd herself in her Clothes; and with as much Resolution as Presence of Mind, pass'd thro' the midst of the Guards, who took her for the same they had just let in; and coming out of Doors she found Capt. Misset, who was walking there, and whistling a Tune, the Signal agreed upon. The Princess was carry'd to the Inn, where the Horses were ready in the Berlin, and in which she was accompany'd by Madam Misset, Major Guaydon and Ogan; whilst Misset, and another Gentleman of his Nation, staid in *Inspruck* to see whether the Officers

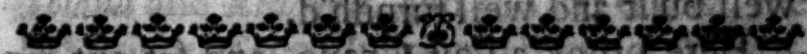


Officers would discover any thing; but finding at the end of two Hours that all was quiet and safe, they follow'd the Berlin on Horseback.

The next Day the Princess was in great danger of being taken; for the commanding Officer of *Innsbruck* having discover'd her Escape, dispatch'd a Courier to the several Officers about the Country to give them notice of it, in order to have her apprehended. The Courier overtook them, and *Misset* suspecting his Design, was resolv'd, either by fair or foul Means, to stop his Journey; and if the Fellow would not get drunk he determin'd to shoot him thro' the Head. However, the Courier sav'd his Labour, by drinking as much as he desir'd; which done, *Misset* took his Dispatches from him and deliver'd them to the Princess. Three Days and three Nights they travell'd, without stopping any where, longer than was absolutely necessary for the changing their Horses; and at the end of that time they reach'd the Territories of the *Holy See*. One would have thought in impossible that so gay a Princess could have shewn so much Resolution and such Conduct.

I intend forthwith to set out for *Leghorn*, from whence I'll write to you again; and the Letters which you'll receive from me for the future will be a little more particular; but the Road which I have taken hitherto is so well

well known, and has already been taken so much notice of, that I thought it would be impertinent to dwell long upon any of those Places where I have already pass'd thro', but the farther I get from you, the more Opportunities I shall have of satisfying your Curiosity. In the meanwhile, I beg you to think, Sir, that no Body is more, &c.



## LETTER II.

*Florence, June 12, 1720.*

I Intended before now to have been at Leghorn; but have not yet been able to reach it. Since my last I had the good Fortune to put into *Espertia*, and in sight of the City of *Massa*, just in the very critical Minute, which if I had not done, you would have heard no more from me. *Massa* gives its Name to a little Sovereignty, in the Possession of a Gentleman of the House of *Cibo*, and who is oblig'd to pay Homage for it to the Emperor. I visited the Sovereign Palace, which has not the least thing remarkable in it, and lay that Night at the Convent of the *Capuchins*. Next Day I got on Board again, and very fortunately escap'd a se-

a second Time by being thrown into *Erizi*, a little miserable Sea Port, in the State of *Genoa*; Then I resolv'd not to trust myself any more in the same Vessel; but going on Board a much larger Ship, I reach'd *Vado*, but not without having been expos'd to much Danger. *Vado* is one of the prettiest Boroughs of *Italy*; and just upon the Bank of the Canal there is a handsome Publick-house, well built and well furnish'd.

Here I took a Post-Chaise, and set out for *Lucca*, the Capital of a Republick which does not make much Noise in the World; but is one of the best govern'd I ever met with. The Town itself is large, its Streets wide and open, its Buildings kept in excellent Repair, its Ramparts beautiful, its Fortifications in very good condition, and the Country round it very pleasant.

Setting out from *Lucca*, I lay that Night at *Pistoia*, a little City of *Tuscany*; but very agreeably situated. From thence I set out the next Day; and having travell'd over fine and fertile Plains, border'd by beautiful Hills, and where the Roads were all along excellent, I at length enter'd *Florence*, where I alighted at the Sign of *St. Louis*, kept by an honest *Bavarian*. Within an Hour after my reaching the Place, I deliver'd the several Letters of Recommendation I had to the Officers of that Court; and they desir'd the  
Bailiff



Bailiff *d'Elbene*, a Gentleman who deserves to be, and is, very much respected, to present me to the Grand Duke, who talk'd to me with a great deal of Goodness and Affability. As soon as I got back to my Inn, I found several kinds of Refreshments there, which that Prince did me the Honour to send me. I then paid my Respects to the Electress Dowager *Palatine*, the Princesses *Yoland* and *Eleonora*, and to Don *Gaston*, the last Prince of the illustrious House *de Medicis*. The Bailiff *Laurenzi*, who negotiates the Affairs of *France* in this Court, and the Counts *de Tyel* and *de Molzat*, are perpetually treating me; and, was it not for their Sakes, I should not be much griev'd at my leaving *Florence*, altho' so beautiful a Place.

*Florence* is as finely situated as any City can be; 'tis surrounded by large Numbers of Palaces, beautiful Country Seats, and noble Avenues. Its Streets are large, open, and finely pav'd; but at the same time melancholly, being thin of Inhabitants. The Dome of the Cathedral, as well as the Steeple, is incomparably beautiful; and three or four Churches, whose Pictures and Treasures are invaluable, outshine any thing of that kind. I found some Tombs here, which will immortalize the Workman, as well as the Persons to whose Memory they are erected. I view at leisure the Galleries of the Great Duke,

Duke, where one would think the Ancients and the Moderns had strove to outvie each other. One cannot sufficiently admire the innumerable Rarities which are in the Possession of this Prince. They have shew'd me a Bust of *Alexander the Great*, and the famous Statue of *Venus* by *Apollodorus*, with those of the *Roman* Emperors and Empresses, and other famous Ancients. This Prince has follow'd the Example of his Predecessors, in collecting the best Originals of the most famous Painters, and has spar'd nothing that he might add to the great Riches left him by his Ancestors, whatever he found of truly curious, as well in Diamonds, Rubies, Pearls, Emeralds, Topaze and Saphir Stones, as in Amber, China Ware, Chrystal, Corral, and Marble. The Chappel of *St. Laurence*, which is not yet finish'd, is very much admir'd by all Artists. This is the Burial Place of the Great Dukes, where every one is embalm'd in a separate Mausoleum of wondrous Workmanship; and to adorn 'em, even Jewels are not spar'd; insomuch that one might build a noble Palace, in any Metropolis in the World, as cheap as one might erect one of these Tombs. I have visit'd three or four other Palaces, rich in Pictures and in Sculpture; but neither their other Furniture, nor their Equipages, are in the least answerable to their magnificent Buildings, nor to the

the Pride of the People, who, in this Particular, I believe, exceed every Nation of the World.

The *Florentine* is naturally scornful covetous, a very Backbiter, and at the same time a servile Flatterer. The Ladies here, who are under as much Constraint as in any other Part of *Italy*, are very much addicted to Gallantry and Inconstancy. Had there been no such Place as *Mont-Pulstano* in this Duke's Dominions, I should have gone out of 'em, I believe, very thirsty. I am now leaving the State of *Tuscany*, and am to pass over Mount *Appennine*, which is a prodigious high Mountain that parts *Estruria* from the Ecclesiastical Territories. I beg you to believe that I shall be in that Country as I am in this,

Yours, &c.

B L E T



## LETTER III.

Venice, July 4, 1720.

I Was obliged to spend two Days in my Journey from *Florence* to *Bologna*, after having pass'd Mount *Appennine* in a Litter, and with a great deal more Trouble than Danger. I suffer'd very much upon this Road, wanting even Necessaries; but I recruited myself a little at *Bologna*, where I found a very good Inn and agreeable Company. The People of Distinction of this Place receive Strangers of Fashion with a great deal of Civility and Complaisance; and 'tis an easy Matter to be introduc'd into the Assemblies, where the Ladies enjoy a great deal of Liberty. This City is very large, and is noted on account of many of its Nobles, particularly the House of *Bentivoglio*. There are many large Palaces and fine religious Houses in it. The neighbouring Country is, for Beauty, perfect Fairy Ground; and those Plains which are water'd by the *Po*, give you a Prospect of the most agreeable Landships in Nature.

I took

I took Ship at *Ferrara*, which I pass'd thro' without making any Stop, to sail for the *Adriatick Gulph*; and in three Hours Passage found myself over-against *Venice*; and a Gondolo carried me up to the Sign of the *Three Kings*, where I have convenient Lodgings, and meet with good Entertainment. The Day after my Arrival I went to pay a Visit to Mr. *Pisani*, one of the Senators, who gave me a trusty and discreet Person to accompany me thro' the Place, and to show me whatever was remarkable; and indeed I think the City very beautiful; but I find it is not so much admir'd by those who have seen *Amsterdam*, as by those who have not travell'd thro' *Holland*. I found it a very difficult Matter to visit the *Arsenal*; but at length, at the Intercession of some of my Friends, as well as of some Pieces of Gold, we got over the Difficulties; and I think it is so much the greater Curiosity, in that it is an Original without a Copy. I have been in several of their Palaces, and in their most remarkable Churches; and 'tis with a great deal of Pleasure that I frequently walk in *St. Mark's-Square*, which for Regularity and Magnificence will yield to none in the World. Nor can I every Day forbear going into the Isle of *St. George*. There is a very rich Monastery there, and in it a Representation of the Marriage of *Cana*, which is the

Master-piece of one of the best Painters that ever *Italy* could boast.

*Venice* is a large City, very populous, where you have every thing in abundance; and where you enjoy full Liberty, provided you take particular Care never to meddle with State Affairs. They say 'tis equally dangerous here to game and to have Intrigues. The *Venetian* himself is very cunning and very full of Dissimulation, as humble in Adversity as haughty in Prosperity; and very polite and civil to Strangers who do not want him. 'Tis seldom, indeed, that he will treat you, yet will accept of a Treat at any time; and nobly entertains his Guests at any publick Feast which costs him nothing. The most polite Gallantry is used in the Parlor of the Nuns; and those holy Vestals, who are to entertain the sacred Fire in their vast Convents, are greater Coquets, and have more Intrigues upon their Hands, than the most gallant Ladies who every Day appear in publick. I am now bargaining with an *English* Captain for my Passage to *Corfu*, from whence you may again expect to hear from, &c.

LET



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## LETTER IV.

*Corfu, August 14, 1720.*

I Have now been at *Corfu* fifteen Days, and ten more I spent in my Voyage hither. The Captain that carry'd me was a young *Scotchman*, that prefer'd Merchandize and Business to a Lieutenancy of Foot, which Commission he once bore in the *English* Army. The Day after our Arrival the Vessel founder'd in the Port; which ill Accident exceedingly disconcerts me, and obliges me to go as far as *Smyrna*, to look out for a Vessel that is to sail towards *Egypt* or *Palestine*. An honest *Provençal*, whose Physiognomy makes me already regret the Loss of my *Scotchman*, offers me his, which I cannot refuse for want of a better. I have had Leisure to visit this whole Island, which is but three Leagues distant from *Epirus*, and twenty from *Calabria*, and which no longer bears the Name of *Corcyra*. The Capital, which was built by the *Corinthians*, has two Castles, one to the West, on the Side of the Continent; and the other at the Mouth of the Port, of which it defends the Entry. Neither of

them are very strong; but are nevertheless strong enough to keep off the *Turks*, who neither know very well how to attack nor how to defend a Place. *Sultan Solymán* attempted this formerly in vain; and not above twelve Years ago a *Serasquier* did the same, after having made a Descent there with his whole Army. But as the Town was then incapable of Defence, as being empty of Soldiers and Artillery, it was thought that its Delivery was owing to the Money which the *Venetians* gave the Captain Bashaw for running away with his Fleet. The Story, its possible, may be false; but certain it is that so 'tis told; and upon this Suspicion, whether well or ill grounded, the *Turkish* Admiral lost his Post; and had not sav'd his Head but with the Expence of his Treasure. This Island is about sixteen Leagues in Circumference. It is inhabited by abundance of *Greeks*, who are not all united and of the same Communion. The *Latins* have an Archbishop here who longs for a Cardinal's Hat. There are two Bishops more, who bought their Dignities of the Patriarch, and are therefore very indifferently relish'd. They reckon here a great Number of noble Families; but the *Venetians* take no more notice of them, than of the Privileges they formerly granted them. They are a People that love Play, Navigation, Exercise, and Women.

men. Their Ground is very rich and fertile, but too much over-charg'd with Forests, which are full of Orange-trees and Pomegranates. Upon the Credit of Authors I look'd out for the Place where King *Alcinous* planted his most delicious Gardens. *Homer* very liberally affords the Honour to that Prince of giving a most magnificent Reception to *Ulysses*, at his Return from the *Trojan Wars*: But if the Wine of those Days was no better than that of these, *Ulysses* and his Retinue sav'd but indifferently. This whole Territory could not find Subsistence, fertile as it is, for the *Venetian Army*, which generally take up their Quarters here seven Months in the Year, without Assistance from the *Terra firma*. Both the Land Forces and Mariners are entirely under the Command of the *Proveditor-General*, under whom serve, in quality of *Lieutenant-Generals*, several noble *Venetians*, who in this Place do not impair their Estates. Whether it is that they have a mind in this respect to imitate *Mr. de Schulemberg*, or *Mr. de Schulemberg* has the Complaisance to imitate them: Nevertheless the General may, whenever he pleases, have his Statue on Horseback honourably plac'd in the *Old Castle*, where the Commander in chief makes his Residence. I heartily wish you as much

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Pleasure



Pleasure in your Pilgrimage, as I have thus far had in mine. I am, &c.

## L E T T E R V.

*Myconium, Sept. 20, 1720.*

**W**E departed from *Corfu* in very good Weather; but within thirty Miles were encounter'd with a very great Tempest. The *Provençal*, who understood his Business pretty well, was oblig'd to put into *Cephalonia*, to refit his Vessel, which had lost her second Mast. I took this Opportunity to visit *Ithaca*, which was not far distant; but found there only a Parcel of poor wretched Shepherds; and, as you may imagine, very ignorant of the History of their Country. *Ithaca*, which at present is call'd *Lizola di Compare*, is entirely a Desert. I could neither find Roads, Avenues, nor any thing like them; and saw only a parcel of Shrubs and thick Coverts of Bushes. If History did not assure us, that formerly there was a City here, I could never have guess'd it. Where or how the Palace of *Ulysses*, and his *Penelope*, was situate, I cannot tell; but I imagine it must have been very narrow of

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Compass, as well as empty of Courtiers, the whole Island being very small of extent. The Winds were very troublesome again about ten Miles from *Cephalonia*; but for all this we could distinguish the Mountain *Parnassus*; and pass'd very expeditiously by Mount *Helicon*, in our way to *Candia*, the Capital of which Island we at last made, after having encounter'd all the Caprices of the Sea.

The Isle of *Candia*, formerly the Kingdom of *Crete*, is still very considerable and very fertile. I have drunk Malmsey, that I lik'd better than any of the Wines here, which to me don't seem drinkable, 'till a Person has accusom'd himself to the Taste of 'em, which is very particular. This Kingdom is situate in the *Mediterranean*, just at the Entry into the *Archipelago*. Its Capital (where resides the *Bashaw*, whom I had the Honour to see with the Vice-Consul of *France*) is neither more ruin'd nor better embellish'd than before it chang'd its Master. A *Capuchin* of *Paris* has an Hermitage here, where he lives without being any ways disturb'd. The good Father took me to walk with him; and show'd me a kind of Cavern half fill'd up, which the People of the Place pretend to have been the Labyrinth of *Minos*. I had not time to visit *Canea*, formerly *Sidon*, which

which is call'd by the *Greeks* the Mother of Cities.

The Winds, in eighteen Hours, carry'd us from *Candia* to *Argentiere*, a little Island of the *Archipelago*, as poor as its only Town, which is very ill built and irregular. It is full of Women and Girls, who they say are very good natur'd and reasonable in their Prices: They make linnen Cloth and cotton Stockings, some few of which I bought; but that was all the Commerce I had with them.

From *Argentiere* we went to *Naxos*, which is but about twelve Miles distant. Mr. de *Raymondi*, Consul of *France*, offer'd me his House, which I could not refuse. He is Son to a Gentleman of *Avignon*, who was a Knight of *Maltha*; but quitted his Cross to marry a young Woman of that Place. This Island was formerly consecrated to *Bacchus*, by reason of its fine Wines, which still keep up their old Reputation. The People of *Naxos* built a magnificent Temple in honour of that false God, of which the Ruins are still visible. The *Latin* Archiepiscopal Church is very indifferent; and the Archbishop himself is neither better lodg'd, nor has a much better Revenue than his twelve Canons. However, the Country itself is fat and fertile, and the *Jesuits* and *Capuchins* appear very well contented with their Establishments. This Isle has had particular Dukes,



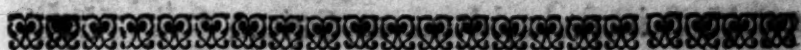
Dukes, of whom one *Sommerive*, with whom I had some Conversation, pretended to be descended. There is not a *Greek* upon the Place that does not deduce his Origin from *Priamus* or *Theseus*, or some other such considerable Person. From *Naxos* we touch'd at *Paros* and *Antiparos*, where I saw the Entry into a famous Grott. It was at *Paros* that the Earl of *Arundel* purchased those fine Tables of Marble upon which are engraven the principal Events and Epochas of the *Grecian* Heroes. Scarce any History is so curious to read as is that of *Greece*; but as the Poets have added to it, it looks very fabulous; and 'tis no easy Matter, in abundance of Instances, to distinguish the Truth from Poetical Fictions.

From *Paros* we landed at *Tyne*, or *Tynos*, a Place the *Venetians* have lost some Years. The Town is not unhandsome, and passes for a Place of considerable Traffick. In this Island they make very good Malmsey. The Women embroider tolerably well, and make very good silk Stockins.

From *Tyne*, in less than two Hours, we made *Myconium*. I was receiv'd with the best Grace in the World into the Consul's House, by Mr. *de Guis*, the *French* Consul at this Place. He is a very honest Man, and very rich, for one of this Country, as well as very happy in a Wife, a Son, and Daughter-

in-Law. His House is as well fill'd as most Houses, and every Body in it extreamly civil. This Isle, which afforded me no Antiquity, nor any thing like it, is one of the nine Cyclades, so nam'd by reason of the Circle they make about the Isle of *Delos*, where the young People used formerly to assemble from all Parts of *Greece*, to assist at the Games which were here celebrated every Year. The Poets tell us, the Inhabitants of *Myconium* were the greatest Parasites of their Time; and it is said they continue pretty good Parasites still. The Town is well peopled, but very irregular, as are all in these Parts. I met with a great Number of very pretty Girls here; but their Dress is very disadvantageous; and, as all the *Greeks* do, they paint and daub. One might eat here very deliciously with a good Cook. Every thing is excellent; and if the Wine of the Growth of this Place is not very exquisite, that they have from *Ecopoli* is, in my Opinion, admirable. I visited the Isle of *Delos*, which the Inhabitants thought the most ancient in the World after the Deluge of *Ogyges*. It is entirely a Desert, and retains no Marks or Footsteps of its former fine Edifices. All that renders it famous at present is, that *Apollo* and *Diana* were born there. The former had a Temple here, that was the most sumptuous of any in the *Archipelago*, which

is between *Macedonia*, *Greece*, and *Asia*. I intend to take leave of my Host in a very short time, which I regret the more because he is very ill. I am, &c.



## LETTER VI.

*Chios*, October 5, 1720.

I Left *Myconium* in very fine Weather, and in less than two Days arriv'd at *Samos*, famous for its Wines in former Ages, and at present for its Wines; but they are too mellow and too sweet for me. They show'd me here the Palace of their ancient Tyrant above half in Ruins, Time having had no more Respect to the Palace built by that Monster of a Man, than the rest of the Edifices of the Island. From hence we sail'd for *Chios*, and made it in about eight Hours. Mr. *de Marigni*, the Consul of *France*, receiv'd me in his House, which would be thought a handsome one even at *Paris*. He entertain'd me very well, and treated me with many Wines, which made me forget those of *France*. I went over this whole Isle at my Leisure, which formerly could boast of thirty-six Cities, of which the Capital;



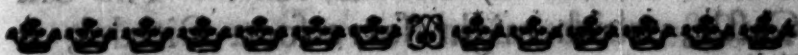
tal, a Place agreeably situated, is the only one now in being. The Neighbourhood is adorn'd with abundance of Country-Houses, built by the *Genoese*, after the manner of those of *Marseilles*. Some few Days ago my Host introduc'd me to Sultan *Selim Kirai*, late Kam of the *Tartars*, whom the Grand Signior has confin'd in this Island, after having depriv'd him of his Estates, at the Complaint of the King of *Sweden*, and given him for his Subsistence only eleven Purles of 500 Piastras each, besides an inconsiderable Village which he still holds in *Romelia*. The Prince, his eldest Son, is in Arms in *Georgia*; and the two other Sultans, who have only 2000 Piastras for their Subsistence, live separately in two Castles, at a little Distance from this Place. I have scarce ever seen two such fine Gentlemen as these two Princes; who, tho' very young, have several Children. The Consul's Chancellor, who teaches them *French*, says, they would willingly go to *France* if they had the Liberty. Mr. *de Marigni*, who often sees the King their Father, says, he is good and generous, and very well acquainted with the respective Interests of the Christian Princes. He ask'd me several Questions by his Interpreter; and after drinking some Sorbec, and having been perfum'd, we retir'd with as little Ceremony as we enter'd, to pay a Visit to a venerable Greek,

*Greek*, of the House of *Grimaldi*, whose Ancestors, at the time the *Genoeze* were Masters of this Place, were Governors of it. They were all good Men, and from Father to Son have always been commendable for their Virtue. Externally he professes the Catholick Religion; but practises only the Religion of Nature, living in the Abundance and Simplicity of the ancient Patriarchs. The Place of his Residence is perfectly well situate; and is as strong as a Castle can be in a Place where a plain Wall is capable of giving Umbrage. We enter'd at a Gate that seem'd very strong. The House is built in the Middle of a vast Enclosure, and has a great and fine Avenue leading to it of Oranges and Citrons. This Enclosure is so great, as to contain his Orchard, his Vineyards, his Meadows, his Fields, his Pastures, and his Fishponds. He gave us a Collation, after the Manner of the Place, and entertain'd us with a Wine of which he promis'd to give me some Bottles. He speaks *French* very well, and has a Smack of the *Belles Lettres*. The same Day he return'd my Visit, and made me promise to afford him my Company a whole Day, together with Mr. and Madam *Marigni*: Accordingly we bestow'd a whole *Sunday* upon him; and all our Discourse was upon History and Religion; during which time his Daughters danc'd with their Companions,

panions, after the Manner of the Country, for our Entertainment ; and I thought their Dances pretty and majestick. Two Damsels of the Family of *Justiniani*, well shap'd and dress'd, assisted at the Feast, which appear'd to me compleat in a noble Simplicity. The Day after we went to visit the Monastery of *Neomeni*, where there are a hundred Caloyers, or Monks, who pretend to follow the Rules of *St. Basil*, which yet its probable they never read. They all live, within themselves, under the Conduct of an Abbot, whom they don't trouble very much, and whom they change every four Years. They add to the Number of their Saints, all those of their Society that leave a good deal of Wealth behind them. Their Treasure, which they bury under Ground, is said to be very considerable. Their Houses form a large Village, in the Midst of which is their Church, which is very richly adorn'd. The *Turks* despise them, and don't give them any Disturbance. We return'd from hence by the same way we went, which was thro' many little Vallies, separated from each other by small Hills that were cover'd with Flowers of several sorts. Here we saw the Trees that bear Mastic, and enter'd the Vineyard of *Homer*, where they make the finest Wine in the Island. About a Mile from this Vineyard, is the School where that Poet read his Lectures.



**Lectures.** It is cut out of the Rock, and its only Glory is the Name of that great Man, the Honour of whose Birth was contended for by seven Cities. This is also a Place of Trade, and they make here Tapistry and Cloth of Gold; but the People are very villainous; and tho' the *Jesuits*, and *Jacobins*, and *Capuchins*, are well settled, yet are they never secure. The Emperor *Solyman* conquer'd this Isle from the *Genoeze*, which may be about thirty Leagues in Circumference, at least so they tell me. But all that I can assure you of, is, that you can have nowhere better Chear, nor better Wine, than I have had here.



## LETTER VII.

*Smyrna, December 3, 1720.*

**W**E were three Days going from *Chios* to *Smyrna*, where I have now been two Months; which time I have not ill employ'd. This City, which is built in the Manner of an Amphitheatre, is situate upon the Declivity of a Hillock, and is well inhabited, notwithstanding the Ravages which the Plague makes here every Year. They reckon here

are fifty thousand *Turks*, between seven and eight thousand *Greeks*, almost as many *Armenians*, four or five hundred *Jews*, and a very few *French*, amongst whom, those of *Provence* and *Languedoc* make the best Figure. Their Settlement here is the best they have in *Turkey*; and their Goods and Moveables are handsome enough, tho' after the Humour of the Place. They have a Consul who is a very honest Man, and much in their Esteem; but he would be much more so if he was not married. The *Capuchins*, who are the Curates of the City, have a very good Convent, where they live like Canons. But it is otherwise with the *Recolets* and *Jesuits*, to which last is committed the Education of all the Youth of the *Levant*. The old Castle, which might serve for a Citadel, is desert and quite in Ruins. It is built upon a rising Ground, which furnishes you with a Sight of the Port, the Village, the fine Gardens, and agreeable Fields. I was accompanied to *Ephesus* by fifteen *Franks*, which Place has only preserv'd the Reputation of having been fine. In our way thither we cross'd the most charming Country you shall any where see. At *Ephesus* I embark'd, with some of my Company, to pass over to *Athens*. Mr. de Gaspari, Consul of *France*, who did his best to do me Honour, walk'd with me over its Ruins. They reckon there are 5 or 6000 Inhabitants at *Athens* that live upon Merchandize;

chandize; but I thought their Trade seem'd to be declining. Here are the Ruins of a Palace of white Marble, where liv'd *Theseus*, one of their first Kings; and we could distinguish some few Remains of the *Areopagus*. The Castle, which is also in Ruins, is situate upon a little Hill. We found here great Pieces of Marble, upon which, in *Basso Relievo*, are wrought the greatest Exploits of the Heroes of *Greece*. At the Foot of the Castle are five or six Columns very much neglected, which are all that remain of three hundred. Our Host made us observe an old Ruin, which, said he, was the House of *Dionysius* the *Areopagite*. It is near a Temple, now entirely ruin'd, which the *Athenians* built to the *unknown God*. The Lanthorn of *Demosithenes* is the best preserv'd of any thing. It is a little Tower, surrounded by six chamfer'd Pillars. It is believ'd that it was within this Place that Orator us'd to shut himself up to compose his Works. This is all very pretty; but he must have a very great Veneration for Antiquity who can admire it.

I return'd to *Smyrna* without having seen the Ruins of *Troy*, which Town is so desolate that very few give themselves the Trouble to visit it. As all the *Greek* Authors make mention of this Town's Misfortunes, there is no Room to doubt of the Truth of a great part of 'em; the only Difficulty is, to know how



much of what they tell us is true, and how much false, which in such antique Stories is not easily discover'd.

The People entertain and make much of me every Day; but they are too proud and ceremonious. I have often eat here of a Bird which they call a Francolin, which is preferable to our Partridges. I drink of the best Wine the Place affords, and divert myself wonderfully. I wish you may be as well diverted.



## LETTER VIII.

*Isle of Rhodes, Dec. 15, 1720.*

**A**T Smyrna I went on board a Ship commanded by a Captain from Toulon, who was not only extreamly well skill'd in his Business, but had a great deal of Honesty and good Converse. We put in at Stanco or Lango, where we spent a whole Day; but I thought the time very short. 'Twas in this Isle of Lango, formerly Coos, that the famous Painter Apelles, and Hippocrates the Physician, were born; and I know no one Isle in all Greece that would please me so well as this; the Air is pleasant, no Necessaries

ries of Life are wanting here, and they are all good of their kind. The *Turks* are affable, and the Natives of a very easy Temper. In that Part where the Christians dwell I met a great many handsome Women, dress'd much more genteely (tho' their Heads had no other Ornament but their Hair) than any Women I saw in the *Archipelago* or *Natolia*, whose Faces were all daub'd and painted. A *Jew* had me to see the Garden of a *Papas*, or *Greek Priest*, to shew me a square Piece of white Marble, on which was cut, in a *Basso Relievo*, *Apollo*, who, in Presence of *Latona* his Mother, is attacking and slaying the Serpent *Python*, according to the heathen Mythology; but according to History, a Robber of *Phocis*, who ravag'd the whole Country. After this we went to take a Walk under a large Sycomore-tree, whose Branches, sustain'd by six and thirty Pillars, covers part of the Mosque and of the Market-place.

We left *Lango*, and after a fifteen Hours Sail arriv'd before *Rhodes*, the Entrance of whose Port is defended by two Towers, which seem ancient and very regularly built. We still find upon one of these Towers the Arms of *France*; and upon the other, those of the Great Master *d'Aubusson*; these last are almost to be seen upon all the Gates and Bastions of the City. Two Days ago I went, in company with the *French Consul*, to pay a

Visit to Visier Haly Bashaw; who, after having lost the Battle of *Belgrade* fled into *Georgia*, from whence he afterwards return'd to *Constantinople*, and lodg'd in the *Seraglio* of one of his Friends, where he was arrested by the Grand Seigneur's Orders. My Drogman, or Interpreter, made him a Compliment after the Fashion of that Country, and deliver'd him my Present, which was two little Chests of Liquor, four Purses finely embroider'd with Gold and Silver, and a dozen of the Sachels they make at *Montpellier*; with which he seem'd pleas'd, and receiv'd 'em politely enough, but without saying much. He seems to me to be very haughty, and very little concern'd at his present State. 'Tis but three Days since he was brought into this Isle by a Capigi, and deliver'd into the Hands of the Bashaw, who treats him with a great deal of Respect, and has lodg'd him in the Palace where the Great Masters of the Order of *St. John of Jerusalem* usually resided.

We still find upon the Gate, and in the Court of this Palace, Arms of the most noted Great Masters of this Order, as those of *de Villiers, Lisle d'Adam, des Crequi, de Caminges, d'Aubusson, d'Ailli, de Clermont, de Ligni*, and *des Pins*, which are preserv'd in very good order. A Greek, who passes for a learned Man, carried me into a Field very near the Town, and at no great Distance from



from the *Capuchins* Hospital, and there shew'd me a very thick Piece of Marble, under which he pretends the beauteous *Helen* was buried, after having hang'd herself, or been strangled by her Companions. He shew'd me an old Book which he said gave this Account; however, he did not decypher or explain it to me, but barely told me it did not decide whether she slew herself, or was slain by those who waited on her.

The Christians are not allow'd here to live within the City itself; but in return, they have a very pleasant Suburb to themselves, where they live very peaceably and plentifully. There is scarce any Island so fruitful as this; but Antiquarians would not find their Account in coming hither; there is not the least Trace to be found of that prodigious Colossus of which both the Poets and Historians have so often spoke.

Before I enter *Egypt* I must add a few Words concerning the History of *Greece*, which, tho' written by very learned Men, is one of the most obscure and the least understood, especially that of the earliest Times, whose Epochas have something so miraculous in them, that one would take the whole to be a Fable. 'Tis true, the *Greeks* began to write their History later than most other Nations of the *East*; and then for an Account of their first Establishment

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they were forc'd to have recourse to Conjecture and Tradition, some true and some false; and consequently, the Fictions, Appearances, or perhaps Facts, which they relate, are advanced only upon what they have receiv'd from others, without ever warranting 'em themselves for true. The Names, Genealogies, Successions, and chief Actions of their Monarchs, are what carry the greatest Shew of Probability; and yet of this Genealogy, as well as of the rest, we can say nothing more but that 'tis probable.

From the first Day I enter'd this Country, I endeavour'd to instruct myself, as much as possible, in their History; and as I convers'd with the most Learned, and most Esteem'd amongst them, you may think I never fail'd a Day of studying my Lesson and asking Questions, in hopes of getting some Insights not quite so allegorical as those which *Homer* has been pleas'd to give us. Amongst other things, I enquir'd who that same *Cæum* might be, to whom they had given the *Earth* to Wife. To which they answer'd, that the Poets not knowing who the first King and Queen were, had been willing to suppose the one the Son of Heaven, the other the Daughter of the Earth. That doubtless too, the giving one of their Children an hundred Hands, was only meant of the Number of Soldiers he had belonging to him,

him. These were the best Accounts I could get for the clearing up of any fabulous Circumstance I enquir'd into.

The History of the *Athenians* I think much more intelligible, and more coherent, than that of any other People of *Greece*, tho' they give us Accounts of many Heroes who seem very great Strangers to true Heroism. We find that in *Spain*, and even in *France*, under the second Race of our Monarchs the Sovereign Power often pursu'd Heroes of this Cast; and these Wretches avoided the Punishment due to their Crimes, only by flying from one Country to another; and sometimes by proving the strongest in those Days of Trouble and Confusion.

But to return to the *Athenians*; tho' their History be so well written, yet are there large empty Spaces to be found between many of their Epocha's, and which their Poets and Historians have fill'd up just as they thought proper. I address'd myself to several of their pretended learned Men, as well at *Athens* as in the other Cities; and told 'em I should be extreamly oblig'd to them if they could inform me who *Cecrops* was, and whence he came, he being esteem'd amongst them as their first King; but some make an *Egyptian*, some a *Phœnician* of him. Certain it is, that one *Cecrops* reign'd in *Greece*; that he gave very wholesome Laws to those People,  
and



and at the same time taught 'em to worship false Gods. But they are wholly ignorant whether he was a *Greek*, and whether he was the First or Sixth King of *Athens*. The Sciences, which once flourish'd in this Country, are entirely lost; and notwithstanding what is reported, there are so few Remains of the Edifices left, whose Beauties have been so much boasted, that I can assure you they are not worth crossing the Seas to see.

The *Greeks* did not of themselves discover the most solid and most important Truths, but learn'd them of other Nations. *Anaxagoras* was the first who taught 'em there was but one God, who only ought to be ador'd, *Pythagoras* assur'd 'em of the Immortality of the Soul; and 'twas great pity that he confounded this Truth in his System of Transmigration. 'Twas in *Egypt* he acquir'd this Learning, which was a Mixture of good and bad: As was also that of *Plato*, who for his Improvement undertook the same Journey, *Aristotle* too, their Inferior however in Honesty, went to consult the *Magi*, and there made some Physical Experiments, at the Charge of *Alexander the Great*, to whom, after all his Kindnesses, he prov'd very ungrateful. The Power of the *Greeks* would have been very formidable, had not the Ambition of the superior Command still divided the several States and greatest Republicks,  
and

and made 'em one after the other destroy themselves. All those fine Cities, of which the Historians have given us such pompous Descriptions, are entirely ruin'd; and the Knowledge which its ancient Inhabitants had acquir'd, has, by degrees, been lost by their Posterity, and now Ignorance seems hereditary in *Greece*. If I may give Credit to what I am told of the *Greeks*, there are very few of 'em that Money would not tempt to the Commission of any Villany; and this unhappy Temper is to be met with in both Sexes, who consequently cannot upbraid each other. Their Treachery is very well known to the *Turks*, and to all their Neighbours; there is only their Religion which is not over well known by any Body: Methought, however, they seem'd to keep the *Sunday*, whether religiously or not I don't pretend to determine; but 'tis with a particular Zeal that they celebrate the usual Festivals, and not a Soul of them then is absent from the Evening-Service; for not to lose the Custom of the Country, there is a very plentiful Collation serv'd in the Church; and in their Ceremonies they give way to all the Intemperance and Excess that may be expected in a poor abandon'd People who have no Body to guide 'em in the right way; for not to mention the gross Ignorance of the Patriarchs, of their Bishops, and of the other Dignitarians,

whose

whose Offices, from the greatest to the smallest, are sold to the best Bidder; the little or no Caution us'd by their Prelates to conceal the shameful Commerce they make of their Benefices, join'd to the little Care they take to hide their sordid Avarice and irregular Life, have destroy'd all the Confidence that might have been repos'd in them. The *Latin Greeks* cannot boast of much more Assistance from their own Priests, than from the *French Mendicant* Friars, who in their Mission have made a shift to accustom themselves to live wholly after the *Greek* Fashion. Were the *Jesuits* too to neglect their Preaching in the Eastern Nations, the Christian Religion would soon be lost there. But I fancy you think by this time that I have entertain'd you long enough with the Affairs of *Greece*. I intend shortly to give you some Account of *Egypt*, for unless I perish by the way I hope to get there in a very few Days time.

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## LETTER IX.

*Alexandria, Feb. 6. 1721.*

**WE** have had the Wind directly fair from *Rhodes* hither, and therefore were oblig'd to make but a three Days Sail of it. This City owes its first Lustre to *Alexander the Great*, who rebuilt it, and gave it his Name; succeeding Kings embellish'd it and made it their Metropolis; and at length their Queen *Cleopatra* made it, after *Rome*, the most considerable City of the World. 'Tis situated betwixt the Sea and a Branch of the River *Nile*. Its Inhabitants by Nature Sharpers, Scoffers, and addicted to Voluptuousness, were overcome by *Julius Caesar*, who attacking them in their own Port set fire to their Fleet, which communicating itself, reach'd their famous Library, and consum'd the best Originals, the finest Manuscripts, and the first Books that ever were written. The Tower of *Phara*, which pass'd for one of the Wonders of the World, and which is still in being, is not in a much better Condition than two little Castles at the Mouth of the Port. The City  
Walls

Walls are very low, and very much neglected; nor are the hundred and twenty Towers, design'd for their Defence, in better Repair. I saw a fine Pillar there of a grayish Garnet, about a hundred and twenty Foot high, besides the Chaplet plac'd upon a Pedestal of good Workmanship, but which incessantly decays and undermines. This Pillar is call'd by the Name of *Pompey*; but for what Reason is not well known: The best Account I can get of it, and which may be depended upon, is, that it was not erected till after the Battle of *Pharsalia*; and it undoubtedly is one of the finest Monuments for which we are indebted to Antiquity. Some *Greek Monks* have got Possession of the Convent of *St. Katharine*; and they shew us the Place of her Habitation, and that in which she suffer'd Martyrdom. At the same time they made me take notice of a Pillar of white Marble, with little reddish Veins, which they would fain have had me take for some of that Virgins Blood. I must own I could not be complaisant enough to do that, or to think the Church beautiful, whose great Ornament is a Pulpit, which, according to their Tradition, *St. Mark* often mounted to preach the Truth of the Gospel to those of *Alexandria*. In this Abbey lives the Patriarch, whose Reputation is not a jot better than that of his Brethren.

From

From the Convent of *St. Katharine* we went to see *Cleopatra's* two Needles, which undoubtedly are two Obelisks of the ancient *Egyptians*; one is still standing, but the other is half buried in the Earth, with the Point downwards. They are of a reddish Garnet-Marble, and cover'd all over with Hieroglyphicks, but which no Body can explain. Some Antiquarians place the Tomb of *Alexander* between these two Needles; but without being able to give any Proof of it. Near this there is a large Square surrounded with Ampitheatres; but which have been as ill us'd by time as most of the other Antiquities. 'Twas doubtless in this Place that they celebrated the publick Games. The Remains of *Cleopatra's* Palace cannot perswade us that this Queen had such sumptuous Lodgings, as some have endeavour'd to make us believe: I enter'd into a round Tower, which was part of the Palace, and in which I found some Rooms still entire, enough to let one guess what the whole could be; and if this Pile of Building was accounted magnificent, Stone-work, which indeed is not in the least spar'd, must have been very scarce and very dear. I saw some Columns too which are neither Marble nor Garnet, notwithstanding what is said of them by some modern Authors, whom I am apt to reckon in the Number of those who publish long Relations



tions of their Travels which they went thro' without ever stirring out of their Studies; or, if they have visited any Places, love better to talk of 'em in a poetical Stile, than that of a faithful Historian.

After having visited the Ruins of *Cleopatra's* Palace, we went to the old Port, which doubtless is the best and most beautiful that ever Nature form'd; but 'tis of no Service to the *Christians*, the *Turks* not suffering our Ships to put in there. To go to this Port we were oblig'd to cross the *New Town*, which is neither beautiful, nor has it any good Buildings in it, except the Mosques and the Oquell, in which lives the *French* Consul. Our Merchants all dwell in Oquells, which are not unlike a Number of Officers Caserns join'd together; and between which and the *Turks* Houses there is always left an empty Space. There is a large open Place, as badly pav'd as the Streets are in any *Turkish* City, which parts the new built Town from the old one, which is in a miserable Condition. Two Days since there was a Camp in that Place which they call the *Plain*, of three thousand *Arabian* Horse. I walk'd in their Camp, and mix'd myself amongst them as much as if I had been amongst our own Troops; but they appear'd to me not over fine, or well disciplin'd. I observ'd one thing very particular in the  
Gates

Gates of old *Alexandria*, which is, that the Iron-work of them is almost consumed and eaten up, whilst the Wood remains entire and in a very good Condition. All the Water which is drank here comes from the River *Nile* by Pipes or Canals, which they call *Kalis*, which passing under the old City brings it into large Cisterns set up to receive it: This Water is none of the clearest, but 'tis impossible any can be more wholesom.

I have taken a Tour in *Delta* since my first arrival at *Alexandria*, from whence I came to *Rosetto* in a Chaise that was lent me. *Rosetto*, lately built upon the Banks of the *Nile*, is one of the most pleasant Cities of *Egypt*; there is no Antiquity to be found there, but there are some Pillars and fine Pieces of *Porphyry*. The *Sardat*, or Deputy *Bashaw*, whom I went to see, and to whom I presented a little Chest of Liquors, (for you must never go empty handed to see a *Turk*) treated me, after the Manner of the Country, in one of his Gardens; and the *Mussulmen* there drank Wine as freely as we can do.

At *Rosetto* I went on Board a small *Turkish* Vessel which carried me to *Damiata*. I was fifteen Hours upon the *Nile* in that Passage, which is far more agreeable than troublesome. *Damiata*, or the *Tamiatis* of the Antients, is most happily situated, and appears

more beautiful to those who are going from it, than to those who draw nearer to it: Its Inhabitants are the rudest Barbarians that you meet with in all the East. As the Janisaries have a great Power here, he whom I brought from *Alexandria* to be my guard was very serviceable to me; he took care that I should be provided with every thing necessary to make the Journey agreeable, and took me a Lodging at one of his Relations Houses, which proved a very good one. This I prefer'd to the House of the Franciscan Fathers, where most of our Travellers lodge. These Monks are called the Fathers of the Holy-Land, because they are its Almoners and Pastors: But were you acquainted with these honest Pastors, you would have a very indifferent Opinion of the Flocks they guide.

During my few Days stay at *Damiata*, I went and took a Walk upon the Ruins of the antient *Pelusium*, where I found no remains of its antique Monuments, but *Damiata* indeed does not shew us any more: This latter Place the Barbarians burn'd and destroyed, after that *St. Louis*, our King, who made an easy Conquest of it, had deliver'd it into the Hands of these Infidels for part of its Ransom. The Apprehensions they were under lest the Christians should retake it, was the Cause of its destruction. About an hundred and ten Years after its being burnt,



the Sultans of Egypt contributed towards rebuilding it, but however without raising its Walls again. I went to both the Upper and Lower Delta: These are two little Islands form'd by the Nile, and by an infinite number of other Channels which that River fills every Year after having water'd Grand Cairo. A Jew, who was my Interpreter, and whom I found pretty well vers'd in History, shew'd me the Place where St. Louis was taken Prisoner, just over against the Town of Mazoua, where the Count d'Artois, his Brother, and the Flower of the French Nobility, perish'd, in spite of all the fine things which the Contrivers of this holy Crusado had prophesied. In this Progress, which lasted eight and twenty Days, I have carefully visited all those Places which still subsist, as well as those which are scarcely known again. I began by Mazoua, a Town miserably built and walled. The Ruins of the City of Bassin are curious enough. A Barbarian, who has nothing but the Name of one, made me take notice of some large Pillars of Marble, which are almost entirely buried under some large Heaps of Stone. These are the Ruins of a famous Temple, dedicated by the Egyptians to the Goddess Isis, the Wife of Osiris, or Adonis, which signifies Lord. He was one of the first and wisest Kings that ever

ruled Egypt: This Prince first taught 'em  
 Husbandry, and made 'em till the Land:  
 At the same time *Isis* instructed 'em in  
 the Knowledge of several Arts; and like  
 the King her Spouse deserved so well from  
 the People, that after their Deaths they de-  
 creed 'em divine Honours. The King was  
 ador'd under the Form of *Apis*, or *Senapis*;  
 and the Queen was honour'd as a Goddess,  
 whose Festival was every Year celebrated  
 with all possible Solemnity. My Jew and  
 learned Barbarian, shewed me near the Tem-  
 ple of *Isis* a Tomb, of a kind of grayish  
 Stone, cover'd with black Marble, upon  
 which might be distinguished the Form of an  
 Ox, and round it, *The Earth is mine*, writ-  
 ten in a Language I did not understand.  
 These Words they told me was the Motto  
 of this *Osiris*, whom they assert to be buried  
 under this Stone. There is more guess work  
 certainly than probability in this; for all Au-  
 thors agree that he was buried in the Isle of  
*Abator*, famous only for the Burial of that  
 Prince. I also passed over the Ruins of *O-  
 mon*, famous for a Temple of the *Jews*,  
 which stood three hundred and forty three  
 Years. This Town is much more destroyed  
 than that of *Bubastus*, where I found some  
 fine remains of a Temple of *Diana*. *Tanis*,  
*Abasis*, *Thyphon*, *Eamasia*, and *Casium* where  
*Pompey* was murder'd, are in a miserable  
 Con-

Condition, as is also the Castle belonging to this last Place, which is upon the Sea shore, and as much run to ruin as the Temple of *Jupiter Casus*, which is but a League distant from it. In these Parts I also saw the Tomb, in which were buried the Entrails of King *Baldwin*, Brother to *Godfrey of Jerusalem*, The Castle of *Thebatum*, of which *St. Jerome* makes mention, is run to nothing; nor is there much left of the Towns of *Pacasa*, *Thous*, *Pharbatus*, and *Phacussa*, which were formerly Bishopricks. In these Parts it was that King *Baldwin* made himself famous for more than one Exploit. I have also been in search of several other famous Monuments, but they no where subsist now but in History. I visited the Lake of *Charquia*, which bears the Name of that Province that lies on the East of *Damiata*: I spoke of my Suspitions to my Antiquarian, who did not contradict me, but allow'd it to be probable, that this Lake, which is also called *Barathrone*, might be the old Lake *Syrbon*, by which, according to the Accounts of *Strabo* and *Diodorus*, several Armies perished. I made my Guides bribe the Guards, who suffer no Body to approach it; these are rude *Arabians*, whose infatuation for hidden Treasures and Superstition are much more to be feared than their Launces and Scimitars. The *Coptes*, who are spread up and down in these Parts as they are every



where in *Egypt*, loaded me with Honours and Friendship. Five or Six of these good People conducted me to another Lake which is scarce known; its Water is fresh, and 'tis at about four Days Journey from *Grand Cairo*. Its length is a Days Journey, and the End of it reaches pretty near *Suez*. 'Tis this Lake which succeeded to the antient Channel *Ptolomæus*, which rising from the *Nile* reached *Suez*, and which Length of Time, joined to the neglect of the *Turks*, has almost filled and levelled. In Summer there are large Meadows on each side of it, covered with immense Flocks of Sheep, Goats, and Buffloes. Every Year the *Nile* supplies it with Water, which then swells it and makes it above a League, sometimes full two Leagues broad; but these Waters falling in the Spring and Summer, those beautiful Meadows appear in the room of it, and the Lake is not above five hundred Paces over; I should have been glad to have seen it at that Time. They were fishing there, and in an Hours Time caught some Loads of Fishes; this was about Noon; but in the Night-time, especially if it be fine Weather, their Draughts are much larger; and Fish are so plenty here, that an infinite number of Villages are always supplied from hence. This precious Lake is in a fruitful Vale they call *Chen*, just at the Entrance of the sand Hills which

which part the Provinces of *Charquia* and *Calioubi*; the *Arabians* who inhabit it are called *Elaid*; I found them very human, notwithstanding the frightful Descriptions that I had heard of 'em. Had I seen nothing but this Lake and the Vale of *Cheib*, whether I had respect to antient or modern Beauties, I should not in the least regret either the Trouble or Charges of my Travels. I am now returned to *Alexandria*, and find that City as melancholy and as ruinous as I left it. As I had neglected visiting the Cells in which the Seventy were assembled to translate the Bible into *Greek*, which before that Time was only in the *Hebrew* Tongue, I went now to make amends for it, the People of the Country looking upon such a Neglect as the greatest Affront. In a few Days I intend to proceed towards *Grand Cairo*, from whence doubtless I shall have several fine Things to write to you; mean while I must say something to you of the Trade, which visibly diminishes in this Sea Port as well as in all others of the East. The Number of strange Ships which are perpetually trading with our Colours in the Seas of the *Levant*, join'd to the small Capacities and large Avarice of our Consuls, are the chief Cause of it. Were you to see these ignoble Magistrates, you would think that it was design'd to give those Employments, which in them-

selves are very honourable and profitable, to the most worthless Fellows in the Nation.

I cannot give you a just Idea of the Trade of *Egypt*; the vast Revolutions which the *European* Merchandizes are liable to there, as are also those brought from thence, make it impossible. I'll however begin by the Manner of Book-keeping. The Custom of the Country obliges to reckon by *Piasters*, supposed to be worth thirty three *Medines* each; though this is an imaginary Money not current in Trade, and to be found only in their Accounts. The Species most in use are *Spanish* and *Mexican Pieces of Eight*, the *Zechins Genzerlis*, a Coin of that Country, the *Medines* or *Paras*, and the *Forles*, eight of which go to a *Medine*; the *Spanish Piece of Eight* is by the Prince fixed at sixty *Medines*, and the *Zechin Genzerlis* at a hundred and seven; but in change you may get more for the one and the other, which is usually attributed either to the Quantity of the lesser Pieces which are very plenty in that Country, or else to the Matter of which they are made, which is neither good nor fine.

We may look upon *Spanish Pistoles* and *Portuguese Moidores* as a Merchandize here, their Price rising and falling as they are more or less wanted at the Mint; for all the Use that's made of them, is melting them down again



again and coining them into *Zechins*. The *Pistoles* however are generally worth two hundred and fifty *Paras*, and the *Moidores* about four hundred and sixty.

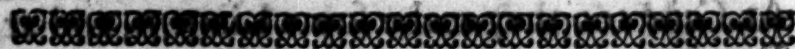
The *European* Merchandizes which are most consumed in that Country, are *French* and *English* Cloths, Brass-works, Pewter, Cochineal, Cloves, Wire, Tin-plates, Coral, Nutmegs, *Epica Seltica*, and Paper; the Price of these Goods are never fix'd. The Commodities which are the Growth of that Country, are Hides of all Kinds and Qualities, Pieces half Linnen and half Cotton. At *Cairo* too they make some Linnens, and at *Damiata* also; but in this last Place they generally weave stripes of Silk amongst them, which makes them worth about as much again as the others.

Up in the Country too we find spun Cottons, which are bought at *Cairo*, and brought for Exportation down to *Rosetta*. At *Alexandria* too you meet with *Sal Armoniacum*.

From *Hyeman*, by way of *Gidda*, they bring the Coffee which we buy at *Cairo*; but this is now a prohibited Trade. By way of *Gidda* too they bring Myrrh, Frankinsence, Aloes, *Cunioma*, and a great many other Drugs which I do not know, and some too which are of no Service in *Europe*. Gum Arabick, Tamarandi, Elephants Teeth, &c. are brought to our Merchants by Caravans of

of Negroes who dwell on the Confines of *Ethiopia*. Sena and Saffron are also the Product of that Country; these are properly their Crops; the Saffron Harvest begins in the Month of *June*, that of Sena holds all the Year round.

This is all that I can at present discover of the *Lervantine* Trade; I shall for the Future enter as far into Particulars as possible, as well to content your Curiosity, as to satisfy my own.



## LETTER X.

*Grand Cairo, March 14, 1721.*

**I**T is near three Weeks since my Arrival at *Grand Cairo*, where, as yet, I have not had leisure to be tired of the Place. I pass'd from *Alexandria* to *Rosetto* in a *Germa*, which is a small Vessel flat and open. They tell us the Passage is somewhat dangerous; but I very happily cross'd the *Boucas*, which are the Entries into the *Nile*. The Mouth of this River is a Sight of much greater Curiosity than is that of two Castles which are built to defend it, but are themselves defenceless. From these Castles I coasted along the

the Country, and the Gardens in the Neighbourhood of *Rosetto*, the Prospect whereof is very delightful. When I came to *Rosetto* I hir'd a *Mage*, which is another of that Country Vessels, in which I again came up the *Nile*, the Banks whereof have nothing very remarkable: The one Side is, in a Manner, a perfect Desert; and the other, the Surface of which is cover'd with great Numbers of Palms and Fir-Trees, seem'd tolerably well cultivated. We pass by the Point of the Island which forms the *Delta*, where we leave an Arm of the *Nile* which goes to *Damiata*: This is the Way I took in going to and coming from the *Charquia*. I had on Board my Embarcation the Abbot of a small *Greek Monastery*, who passes for a Person of great Learning, and who, I believe, had no *Breviary* with him; but instead thereof he had a *Homer* very much us'd, and a *Quintus Curtius* quite new, which induced me to conclude, that he had Recourse to the former, and little regarded the other: Nay, he pretended, and even offer'd to prove from *authentick Manuscripts*, That *Quintus Curtius* had given no other than a Romance of *Alexander's* Life: That, for Example, on some Occasions he exalts that Prince, and that in some Measure he degrades him in others no less supposititious. He would needs have *Alexander's* Father to have been *Nectenabo* the *Magus*,



*Magus*, who, after having reign'd some Time in *Egypt*, fled for Sanctuary to King *Philip's* Court, where he fell in Love with *Olympias*, who treated him like a good and generous Princess, as in effect she was.

I came a-Shore with my learned Abbot, with whom I parted at *Boulac*, a very considerable Town: It is no more than half a League distant from *Grand Cairo*, into which City I enter'd by the Bridge of a Canal which they call *Kalis*: This Canal is filled only by the Water wherewith the *Nile* yearly furnishes it. To reach the *Franks* Quarter I pass'd through eight or ten very long and very narrow Streets, which are said to be always crouded with an infinite Multitude of People in perpetual Motion. Our Traders are quarter'd neither decently nor commodiously; but the *French* Consul has there a considerably large House. Our present Consul is Monsieur *Le Maire*, who officiates with more Honour than Profit; notwithstanding the Post is very good: But the poor Gentleman, who is not over happy in Children, is fleeced and plunder'd by his whole Family.

There are few great Cities so melancholy and disagreeable as this: If it was beautiful and pleasant when the *Sultans* of *Egypt* made it their Residence, it is now far different from what it was in those Days. Its Suburbs,

burbs, &c. are of a vast Extent; but *Cairo* itself, well examin'd, as to its just Circumference, is not much bigger than *Paris*. It is computed to contain near five millions of Inhabitants; and in it are reckon'd two thousand *Mosques*. The Outside of the principal one appears to me magnificent. Trade there daily diminishes, by reason that we draw from *India* the Commodities which we formerly sought for only in its Magazines. The Castle where the *Basha* resides, though very much neglected, is still exceeding beautiful. The small Remains there are of Painting and Architecture, shew us a fine Pattern of the Magnificence of the Princes who built it. The Prospect of this Castle, which commands the City, over the Nile and the circumjacent Country, is exquisite. Many Egyptians, without the Testimony of any written Tradition, believe, that the Castle of which I have been speaking, was the Palace of *Joseph*: They there shew us his Granaries, and the Hall wherein they will needs have that he used to give Audience. But, as the Original of *Grand Cairo*, which certainly was built only from the Ruins of the Egyptian *Babylon*, and even out of a Part of those of *Memphis*, is considerably more modern than that Patriarch, I intreated those Gentlemen, the Inhabitants of *Grand Cairo*, to take in a good Part, that I could not allow *Joseph* to have

have been the Founder of that their principal Edifice: What is really Fact, is, that the Well which bears the Name of that blessed Patriarch is really worth seeing. It is dug down through the Rock, and may be about forty Fathoms deep: Its Mouth, which is four Fathoms square, continues of the same Width to the very Bottom. We descend to it by a Stair case about nine or ten Foot broad, the Steps of which are so commodious, that Oxen go down and come up with the greatest Facility. The Form of this Well is square, and all People walk round it. In the Tour they make round its four Fronts, in each are to be found two Openings, which give Light to the Stair-case. One can go no farther than half way down the Well, where we meet with Oxen drawing up the Water into a Reservatory, from whence other Oxen above cause the same Water to ascend into another Receptacle in order to distribute it.

I have been to see the Pyramids erected at four Leagues distance from *Grand Cairo*, and half a League from the *Nile*, by the ancient Kings of *Egypt*. These Edifices are counted among the Wonders of the World. *Herodotus*, and several other Authors write, that two hundred and twenty thousand Men were for twenty Years employed in building the first of them, by order of King  
*Chemis,*



*Chemis*, or *Chresomis*. Each of its square Fronts, at the Bottom, is of above two hundred Fathoms, and its Height is eighth Hundred Foot. The second, which is suppos'd to have been erected by King *Chaops*, a Prince wholly unworthy of the Throne, is not so considerable: And the third, which without being assur'd of it, they attribute to the Courtesan *Rhodope*, is a Diminutive of the other two. The first is only to be enter'd, by reason that the Prince who built it, as not being thought worthy the Honour even of Burial, was not there deposited; and for this very Reason the Entrance was not clos'd up. I was very much afraid of being suffocated in that dismal Labyrinth, into which I have made a solemn Promise never in my Life again to enter. One is obliged to clamber up to it with abundance of trouble, and no small appearance of breaking one's Neck at the least false Step. After many Difficulties, we meet with an Apartment of twelve Paces long, six broad, and about twenty Foot high. Nine large Stones, of four Foot in breadth, which cover this Chamber, rest upon two Walls, the Inside of which is of a black Granite Marble, perfectly well polish'd, and exquisitely join'd. On the Floor we meet with a Tomb quite empty: In the Inside it is seven Foot long, three broad, near four deep, and five Inches thick, of a dark-

dark-gray Stone, somewhat resembling Porphyry, but without any Redness, excessively hard, and, when struck upon, sounds like a Bell. As for the rest, Sir, there is not a Potentate in *Europe* who might not immortalize his Name by Structures of this very Nature, if he was unhappily tinctur'd with the same Principles as were the *Egyptians*. For the *Mummies*, or *Momies*, you may call them as you please, such as are found in these Desarts, I am intirely well perswaded, that the least considerable Apothecary, who understands his Business, is able to acquit himself, every Jot as well as the Antients, of emptying a Corps, embalming it, by filling the *Vacuum* with Gums and Perfumes, and of swathing it about with such a Quantity of Bandages that the Air being prevented from penetrating it, the Access of Corruption is hinder'd.

We re-pass'd the *Pyramids* by *Gyzipa*, where I in vain sought for the Sepulcher of the Prophet *Jeremiah*. In this great Town they carry on a considerable Trade of Linnen Cloth, Saffron, and Buffloe's Hides. We there cross the *Nile* in a Boat to go to *Memphis*: This City is so absolutely destroy'd, that the Place where it stood would be dubious, were we not inform'd of it by the most authentick Authors. The *Egyptian Babylon*, which was opposite to it, has not been better

better preserv'd. A wretched Antiquary would fain have palm'd upon me, that a certain miserable, decay'd Tenement, which he desir'd us to take Notice of, was the very identical House where St. Peter wrote his *First Epistle*.

Before we enter'd the Remnants of *Memphis* we pass'd a hollow Way, which is sometimes full of Water, and not to be cross'd without Boats. It is then a Rivulet, which was the pretended River of the fabulous *Charon*, said to be the Pilot of a Boat they call'd *Barris*, wherein People pass'd over from *Memphis* to interr the Bodies of Persons of Consideration, in a certain Grove or Thicket; the Mouths of which Defuncts they were accusom'd to fill with Pieces of Money, according to the Ability or Circumstances of the Parties Executors.

At *Grand Cairo* they make very good Carpets: As for other Manufactures there are scarce any of much Value. The Missionary Father *Siccard*, a *Jesuit*, is there held in high Estimation: He is one of the most learned Religious that have enlightned the East for many Years. He is no better accommodated at his House than are the *Capuchins* and *Recolets* in their respective Hospitals; but as to the rest, all the Religious there are very much at their Liberty.



I frequently visit a certain *Emir*, who of all the *Arabian* Noblemen I ever met with, is the best made, the most gallant, and the most honourable. He entertains me both in Town and Country, and has express'd himself to be no less pleas'd with my *Liquors* than I was with his *Cyprus* and *Castreuan* Wines, of which he drinks prodigious Quantities. His Apartments are as fine, and as well furnish'd as they well can be in *Turky*: He maintains three thousand Men, fifty Wives or Mistresses, and a considerable number of Slaves. Four Days since I accompanied him to the Camp of another *Emir*, who receiv'd him with abundance of Ceremony: We stay'd there two Days, which I thought very short. The Manner of Living of these *Emirs*, and of their Vassals, is extremely singular: The first are Persons of the highest Rank and Quality, generally very powerful, who entertain as many Horse as their Capacity will permit. The Gros of their Troops are continually encamp'd, ready to be at the Heels of the Caravans which go to, or return from *Mecca* and *Persia*. The greatest Part of these *Emirs* are paid for convoying those Caravans, which the other *Arabs* never fail of attacking, and of pillaging without Mercy when they can get the Mastery. What Turn soever Matters take, they are sure still to be Gainers, and at the End of their Campaign,

paign, they go to repose themselves under the Shade of their Laurel-Trees in the Cities or Towns of their Residence, into which they never enter but well arm'd and guard-ed; for they are less secure within their own Palaces than any where else. That *Emir* whom I have been mentioning, has every now and then a Scuffle with the *Basha* of *Cairo*, who is continually laying Shares for him, from which he would never be able to disengage himself, without leaving behind him either his Treasure or Life, should he be so unfortunate as to be surpriz'd. He, nevertheless, makes his Court to the *Basha*, going regularly enough to the Castle; but ever so well accompanied, that he is, as it were, sure of not being laid hold on: These Precautions are likewise taken by all the other *Emirs*, when they are under the like Apprehensions. Their Light-Horse scour the Country, most humanely stripping and plundering such Travellers as fall in their Way: But, notwithstanding their whole Subsistence is by Theft and Rapine, there are no People in the Universe who exercise Hospitality with so much Generosity, or more Fidelity, than do the *Arabs* in general. All Travellers, be they of what Nation or Belief soever, who put themselves under their Protection, or go to visit them, are in the utmost Security: They feast their Guests by Turns, look on them

with Pleasure, and part with them not without Reluctance.

It rains in *Egypt* but very seldom; and so the Soil, which yields its Fruits in the greatest Abundance, owes its Fecundity to nothing but to the over-flowing of the *Nile*, which regularly waters it every Summer. This famous River, however, is not in all Years equally liberal of its Water; and the Inhabitants remark that their Fields will be more or less fertile, according as the River overflows its Banks more or less. They eat at *Cairo* good Figs, and excellent *Pastigues*, which are Water-Melons: Other Fruits do not there thrive so well. The Gardens are full of Orange, and other large Trees, particularly those on which grows the *Cassia*: There are in them some fine Flowers; but the whole is nothing but Confusion, planted after the *Turkish* Manner, without good Order or Design. The Country is cover'd with a kind of Rushes, which the Antients us'd instead of Paper: This Paper was made of the Coat of these Rushes cut in Slips, and glew'd or pasted cross-ways over each other. It is in this Sort of Paper the only Books the *Egyptians* have, which we are the best able to decypher, are written. Wood is extremely scarce in *Egypt*; and Wine is still scarcer: Yet for all that, one might live there agreeably enough, were the Air less infected. The

Com-



Commodities there to be found, are Wheat, Barley, Rice, Dates, Sugar, Cassia, Sena, Leather, Saffron, Flax, Linnen, Coffee, and an excellent Balm, which, were it cheaper and less rare, would reduce to Poverty a Multitude of Physicians.

Though the *Egyptians* have not had such great Warriors as *Greece* and *Rome* may have produced, yet it is well known that their Climate has nourish'd some illustrious Leaders. These People are, at this Day, the very same they formerly were, viz. dextrous, crafty, ingenious, pleasant, courageous, but excessively slothful, and surprizingly superstitious. It was in their Country that the Sciences flourish'd more than in any other: *Homer*, *Lycurgus*, *Democritus*, *Solon*, *Plato*, *Pythagoras*, *Eudoxius*, *Aristotle*, and so many others of the most remote Nations, undertook the Voyage to *Egypt*, in order to consult the Priests of that Kingdom, who alone were possess'd of the contemplative Sciences: They in all Ages taught Arithmetick and Geometry, to which they in particular strictly apply'd themselves: Others of their learned Men gave themselves to the Study of Astronomy, Astrology, Musick, Pharmacy, and Physick, I mean the Knowledge of Simples: And they are even reputed the Inventors of all the Sciences. The Years, among the antient *Egyptians*,

were only *Lunar*; afterwards of two Months, and then of four; which confounds all the Computations which we endeavour to make concerning the Length or Shortness of the Reigus of their primitive Kings: I doubt not but that those who maintain'd that the *Egyptian* Monarchy continued thirteen thousand Years, reckon'd by the aforesaid Sort of Years.

What appears to me the most conspicuously clear is, that the *Egyptians* look on themselves to be the most antient People in the World, and that with Ground enough; for if the *Phanicians* had not invented Writing, the *Egyptians* would have had the Glory of being the Authors, or Fathers of the most useful Arts. These last had two Sorts of Letters, the sacred and the vulgar. The sacred were Sculptures and Figures very extraordinary, which Authors call *Hieroglyphicks*: They caused them to be engraven on Stones, or Obelisks, or on Pyramids, whereon these pretended sacred Figures represented the principal Dogma's of their Theology, and of their Science, political and moral: But they always made so great a Mystery of this Hieroglyphical Science, that *Pythagoras*, as well as many other Philosophers, studied without being ever able to comprehend much of it.

There are near fifty Families in *Egypt* who know no Law but that of Nature, which they

they call the Law of God; because the Creator, say they, gave it to *Abraham*, from whom they pretend to be descended. These are the only truly learned Men which are to be found in the *Levant*, where they are extremely honour'd and respected. They lead a pleasant and peaceable Life, neither travelling nor minding Commerce; They understand Musick and Physick; study Astronomy with Success: They have their Hours for Speculation, and for manual Occupations, which they employ as best they can: Their Wives and Daughters, seldom idle, for their Parts work in Embroidery, for which the *Sultanas* never fail to give Earnest. They never take to Wife strange Women, that is to say, those which are not of their own Families; so that the Blood is always kept uncorrupted, and their Interest is ever the same. None practise Hospitality with so good a Grace as do those generous People, who, as they affirm, have never varied either in their Principles, or their Sentiments. They, in a Manner, perpetually read the Sacred Writs which contain the History of the World's Creation: It was, according to them, upon this Book that *Moses* rely'd, and regulated his Method in composing *Genesis*. This Sacred History is nothing near so copious as theirs; which is also the chief Reproach they make, upon this Subject, to the



Legislator, pretending, That as he never saw any other Authority than theirs, he ought not to have retrench'd any Thing from it, and still much less to have introduced Facts which they so absolutely look upon to be supposititious, that they call the History of the *Old Testament*, the *Mystical Romance* of *Moses*. They maintain, That none but he could ever possibly have form'd an Idea of the Fall of the Angels, which, before he mention'd it, was no more known than was the Serpent's Eloquence: That *Abraham*, who was acquainted with the whole History of his Family, from the very Original, and taught it to his Children, never told them of either the Angels Rebellion, or their Condemnation: That *Jacob*, and his Posterity, no less learned in what had been transacted before their Time, said not one Syllable concerning the Levity and Frailty of the first Woman. In a Word, they will needs have it, That not a Tittle of what pass'd in the primitive Age of the World has escap'd them; so much the rather, because, immediately after the Invention of Letters, their first Care was to compose and write their Scriptures in the Presence of all the Elders and most considerable Men of their Nation: That this Book, which is much more ancient than *Moses*, taught him, That there was a great Deluge; but far from authorizing him to  
give

give out that it was universal, it informs the Reader of the Foundation of several Kingdoms, where the Waters never reach'd, and from whence such a Multiplicity of Nations deduce their Original. They agree, That abundance of the People were polluted and corrupted with an abominable Vice, for which *Sodom*, *Gomorrhah*, and several other Cities, were destroyed by an Earthquake. But all we say concerning the Circumstances of the Ruin of those Cities, they look upon to be as much a Fiction as all the rest which is not to be met with in their Scripture. They are not ignorant of *Pharaoh's* Astonishment at all the wonderful Things which *Moses* did in his Presence; but all those Wonders, if we may venture to believe them, were no other than rare and curious Physical Performances; and they hold him to have been the ablest Physician, and the most expert Chymist that ever yet has appear'd: In a Word, they take him for a Prodigy. They do not regard him as a Prophet; but they compare him to the *Chinese* Legislator, whose Memory they highly venerate. Nor have they less Veneration for *Jesus Christ*, whose Law they accuse us with having corrupted. They take us, in general, to be ignorant; and they are so unjust and partial in their Prejudice, that they speak of the primitive Fathers of the Church, as Men of  
either

either the grossest Simplicity, or of very ill  
 Principles. " There is nothing, say they,  
 " in the Morals of your Prophet but what  
 " is very reasonable and most pure ; but if  
 " you regard him as a Deity, notwithstanding  
 " he never gave himself out for such, it  
 " is an Excess of Presumption in you to suf-  
 " fer Mortals to new modelize the Law  
 " which was left you by your God, whom  
 " you make to speak Things which you are  
 " very conscious never proceeded from his  
 " Mouth. By what Authority is it, that  
 " you damn an Infinity of Nations who  
 " know little, or rather nothing, of you ;  
 " and not only them, but, likewise, such  
 " of your own Brethren who oppose the In-  
 " novations which you have introduced, and  
 " daily continue to introduce into your Dog-  
 " ma's, and into your Worship? Do not  
 " you prostrate yourselves before your High-  
 " Priest, who may, very probably, be a  
 " most infamous and wicked Person? Un-  
 " der Pretence of yielding to his Decisions  
 " a chimerical Infallibility, do you not render  
 " him Honours due alone to the great Being  
 " of all Beings? You deplore, say you, the  
 " Blindness of the *Pagans* and *Idolaters* : Ah !  
 " What Signification, what Meaning have  
 " all the Festivals which you institute and  
 " celebrate in Honour of your Saints, whose  
 " Portraits, Busts, and Images, are the chief  
 " Orna-



“Ornaments of your Temples? When the  
 “Almighty Creator vouchsafed to speak to  
 “our Fore-fathers, He said nothing to them  
 “but what all Mankind, equally, might  
 “comprehend. He gave them a Law which  
 “every one ought, and was able to follow:  
 “But He never told them that there were  
 “three Persons in the God-head, which, to  
 “make short of the Matter, you re-unite  
 “into One and the same Substance! Why  
 “do you, of a Thing most natural and easy  
 “to be understood, chuse to form an incom-  
 “prehensible Mystery? What Credit have  
 “you with, or what Power over the *Son* of  
 “your *God*, that you can, whenever you  
 “please, incorporate *Him* into a *Bit* of  
 “*Dough*? After what Manner is it you treat  
 “*God the Father*, whom you paint out as an  
 “unjust and cruel Being, who *saves* one and  
 “*damns* another, because it is His good  
 “Pleasure so to do? It is several Ages that  
 “you have been endeavouring to explain  
 “your *Mystery of Grace*; you are incessantly  
 “talking of it without knowing what you  
 “would be at, or ever bringing it to a Pe-  
 “riod. All these Disputes certainly lead  
 “you (if they have not already so done) into  
 “the Sentiments of *Pyrrhon*, who was the  
 “most extraordinary, most irregular, and  
 “most unreasonable of all the Philosophers.  
 “You were so imprudent as to send into  
 “*China*

“ *China* learned Men, of different Parties  
 “ and Persuasions, to convert, as you pre-  
 “ tend, the *Chinese*: We are not ignorant,  
 “ that the first Steps taken by those your  
 “ *Apostles* were Acts of Hostility against  
 “ each other: They began with bitter In-  
 “ vectives, exclaiming against one another  
 “ after so strange a Manner, that all honest  
 “ People, who heard of their unaccountable  
 “ Conduct, were utterly scandaliz’d thereat;  
 “ and the worst of all is, that the Faction  
 “ which carried the Day against their Com-  
 “ petitors owe their Advantage to nothing  
 “ but their Weakness in Deifying *Confucius*,  
 “ and to a hundred other Strokes of Poli-  
 “ ticks, of which People who hold their  
 “ Religion to be the only good one, ought  
 “ not, by any Means, to have been guilty.

“ Believe us! add they; Let us, with  
 “ our whole Heart, adore the Supreme Es-  
 “ sence: Let us faithfully serve Him, and  
 “ none but Him: Let us love our Neigh-  
 “ bour as we desire to be lov’d by him:  
 “ By doing this, we shall assuredly be hap-  
 “ pier in this Life, and we cannot possibly  
 “ fare the worse for it in the next, supposing  
 “ that there actually is an Eternity. This  
 “ System of the Immortality of our Souls,  
 “ is not so ancient, as it appears to us to be  
 “ rational and consolatory: But as our most  
 “ holy Patriarchs never made the least Men-  
 “ tion

“ tion thereof; and as *Moses* himself, whom  
 “ you hold to have been the Oracle of the  
 “ Most High, tells us nothing of it, both  
 “ you, and we, have much more Interest to  
 “ flatter ourselves with the Hopes of it,  
 “ than we are able to find Proofs to convince  
 “ us of its Reality.”

These (or in Words very much like these) are the Arguments of the small Number of those Sages with whom we converse in *Egypt*. What Joy would it be to the Church, if People of such honest and laudable Morals, as to the World, could be induced to be withdrawn from their Darkness by the Light of the Gospel!

If the *Jews* who live in the *Levant* are more Blame-worthy than those *Abrahamists*, yet some honest Men are to be found among them. They attack neither the Actions nor the Morals of *Jesus Christ*: But they wage War against our Worship, and our most sacred Mysteries, with the same Weapons as do these *Egyptians*. They maintain, That our Authors artfully impose on us many Things which are very noxious to us, and in which they disagree from us; and that we feign ourselves ignorant of all that *Jesus Christ* did from his twelfth to his thirtieth Year, in order to conceal that Chasm under a mysterious Veil, not very difficult to be seen through, since he may be traced from the



the very Day of his Birth to that of his Death. With little Foundation enough, they assure us, That the four Gospels, whereof we are possess'd, are no other than a Complication of twenty four others, from which we have subtracted all that we were not disposed to suffer to appear in the Light. They will have it, That we have not translated the Bible with abundance of Exactness; nay seem to believe, that we have not explain'd the Text with Fidelity. They affirm, That *Jesus of Nazareth* never once said he was God; and that, had it not been for the Credit of the Emperor *Constantine*, He, perhaps, had never pass'd for such. They neither know, nor believe that he deserv'd to suffer Death: But they hold, That their Fore-fathers took away his Life merely in Compliance with the Injunction of *Moses*, who, in the thirteenth Chapter of *Deuteronomy*, exhorts and enjoins them to put to Death all who would set up for Prophets, and destroy their Law.

These Words they make applicable to the Son of God, and thus they disown the Saviour of the World! Let us lament their Blindness; and still more the Unhappiness of their Children, who deplorably inherit the Iniquity of their Parents. May the Almighty shew them His Mercy; as likewise to

to You, and Me, who stand in very great  
Need thereof.



## LETTER XI.

*Jerusalem, June 3. 1721.*

**I** Was heartily tired in my Journey from  
*Grand Cairo* to *Aleppo*. Before I could  
reach thither I travers'd Plains and Desarts  
quite parch'd up, and scarcely inhabited. I  
however, made shift to get a Lodging every  
Night in the Villages, where the *Sheikhs*, who  
are in a Manner the Owners, gave me the  
best Reception they were able. I was  
eighteen Days in travelling to *Aleppo*, which  
is the most considerable City in *Syria*. There  
is Probability enough that it was the ancient  
*Hieropolis*, whose Archbishop, in former  
Times, was Suffragan to the Patriarch of  
*Antioch*. It is commodiously enough situated  
between *Alexandretta* and the *Euphrates*, and  
built upon four Hillocks. The Castle, which  
is not very ill kept, stands on the highest of  
them, in the Middle of the City, which  
may be about eight Miles in Circuit. It is  
rather populous than well built; but the  
Houses are richly furnish'd, and the Insides of  
them

them are curiously wrought. There are a hundred *Mosques*, or thereabouts, whereof I am told that three or four, cover'd with Lead, are much more sumptuous than the rest. The small River *Ccya*, which runs by the Town, affords few Fish; but, in Exchange, it waters abundance of Gardens, &c. which produce excellent Melons. The *Franks* divert themselves with walking on a most agreeable little Hill, a Quarter of a League distant from the City. *Aleppo* is vastly rich, and a Place of very great Traffick. The *Armenians*, *Persians*, and other *Eastern* People, send thither Jewels, Silks, Spice, and all other precious Commodities from *Asia*. The *French*, *English*, *Hollanders*, *Venetians*, and *Genoese*, bring to that Mart Furs, Cloth, the richest Silks and Brocades, Iron and Lead. Had not the *Portuguese* found out the Way by the *Cape of Good-Hope*, it is probable that *Aleppo* would have now been the most opulent City in the World. There is still a Trade carried on of Camlets made of Goats-Hair, Balm, *English* Salts, Galls and Soap. I believe that Traders from every Quarter of the Universe resort to that Place. Each Nation, of all which the *English* are the most numerous, has there its respective *Consul*. Ours presented me to the *Basha*, who is the most graceful *Mussulman* I ever met with: He is in great Credit



Credit at the *Porte*, through his Wife's Interest, who is the Grand Vizier's Niece. I accompanied this illustrious *Turk* to the *Euphrates*, the Banks whereof are no more curious to be seen than are those of the *Nile*. This last River is far more considerable and navigable than is the other, which is reported to be dangerous for Vessels in some particular Parts of it. The Garrison appear'd to me to be neither fine, strong, nor well regulated. The *Maronites*, *Greeks*, *Armenians*, *Jacobites*, and *Catholicks* have each their respective Church; and the *Jesuits*, *Carmelites*, and *Capuchins* their Hospitals, which are not contemptible. The Air is not bad, nor is the circumjacent Country disagreeable.

I left *Aleppo* in Company of a good Number of Traders of several Nations, who had Business at *Alexandretta*. This City, call'd *Scandaroon* by the *Turks*, is the most dismal and worst inhabited Town in the *Levant*, on Account of its unwholesom Air, especially in Summer. It is fifty Miles from *Aleppo*, at the utmost Extremity of the *Mediterranean*: The Port, which receives the Merchandize convey'd thither, is not incommodious; and it is there that the *European Christians* take their ordinary Walk. At about 500 Paces from the Town-Wall, I went to take a View of an ill-contriv'd Tower, on which the Arms of *Godfrey of Bouillon* are

F still

still to be seen; it was undoubtedly built to defend the Causey, made through a filthy Marsh which infects the Air with its putrid Exhalations.

I departed from *Alexandretta* in a *French* Imbarcation bound to *Tripoly* in *Syria*, which is agreeably enough situated, about half a League from the Sea. It stands between two little Hills, one to the East, and the other to the West, between the Sea and the Town, the Neighbourhood whereof would be extremely fine were it not so much neglected. We have been all over the Plain of *Jeunia*, that is to say, *the Plain*, by way of Excellence, which a considerable Number of small Rivers, or large Rivulets, seldom or never dry, most deliciously moisten with their Streams. Afterwards I went to see a beautiful Aqueduct, built from one Mountain to another, and which having first travers'd a very pleasant Valley, brings to the Town a Quantity of Water fully sufficient for all its Necessities. Our Antiquaries do not fancy that this Aqueduct was built by *Godfrey of Bouillon*, tho' it goes by the Name of *The Prince's Bridge*. The Convent of *Belmont*, distant two Leagues from *Tripoly*, is nothing the more beautiful for its having been founded by one of the Counts of that Name. In it I met about forty *Greek Monks*, all of them quite as slovenly,  
and

and no less ignorant than they generally are throughout *Greece*. One of these Religious, whom we took to be in some Office in the Community, soon after returning my Visit, came to me loaded with a Goat's Skin full of *Castrean* Wine, which I found excellent; but it must be very moderately us'd.

From *Tripoly* I pass'd to *Seyda* in fifteen Hours Navigation. *Seyda*, or *Sidon*, is a City of *Phœnicia* in *Syria*, wherein the *Christians* have three separate Quarters or Divisions, the Chief of which is taken up by the *French* Consul, and the Merchants of that Nation: The *Jesuits*, *Capuchins* and *Cordeliers* have a small Church at *Seyda*, where they are rather plentifully provided for, than commodiously quarter'd. A *Sangiak*, who is as Governor of the Place, and is a profess'd Enemy of the *Christians*, officiates as *Basha* in that City, which stands situate by the Sea Side, Northward of *Tyre*. The greatest Trade there carried on consists in Cottons, Silks, and Orange-Flower Water. The Gardens, which are in its Suburbs, are full of Orange, Date, Tamarind, and *Adam's* Fig-Trees, which last bears a Fruit very much resembling a small Cucumber, somewhat yellowish, whose Savour seem'd to me extremely insipid: Its Leaves are six Foot long and two broad. The Country near it abounds with innumerable White-Mulberry-Trees, the Leaves



whereof nourish an Infinity of Silk-Worms, gather'd in by the Inhabitants, and carefully preserv'd in their Cottages.

At three Miles Distance from *Seyda*, I took a View of the Ruins of the ancient *Sidon*, which stood at the Foot of a high Mountain which makes Part of the *Anti-Lebanon*. By a great Number of the Fragments of fine Pillars, which are to be seen about the Avenues of this ruined City, it may be judg'd to have formerly been very considerable: But it is now intirely buried under Ground. On a neighbouring Mountain we meet with a Castle which *St. Lewis*, King of *France*, caus'd to be erected, and which is yet in good Estate; but the *Turks* have wholly abandon'd it. Of the ancient Edifices of *Seyda* I have seen nothing but wretched Remains; so that, in all Appearance, those of which some have given us such noble Descriptions, are all converted to Rubbish.

I left *Seyda* in Company of the *French* Consul, who absolutely insisted on bearing all my Expence, and accompanying me as far as *St. John D'Acre*. On the Day of our setting out we din'd at *Sarphan*, which is believ'd to be the ancient *Serepta*, so well known for the Prophet *Elias's* Place of Abode. There we meet with Ruins of a vast Extent. Leaving this Place, we arriv'd, in about three Hours, at the Banks of the *Casimier*,

*Casimier*, which is a River not a little dangerous. Our modern Geographers take abundance of unnecessary Pains, to persuade us, that it is the ancient *Eleutherus*. We coasted along the Sea-shoar, and were no more than two Hours in going from *Casimier* to old *Tyre*, where I was resolv'd to continue one Day, in order to examine the miserable Ruins of that unhappy City, which is now called *Sûr*. It is built on the Sea in a *Peninsula*, and its Situation, which is extremely advantageous, is, without the Testimony of *Quintus Curtius*, a sufficient Proof of its having been one of the strongest Places in the World: But it is now so intirely destroy'd, that not only we cannot meet with any one Monument of *Abylus* or *Hyram*, but even there is not the least Tract left remaining of the Emperor *Adrian's* Liberality; which Prince, in repairing it, endeavour'd to have it utterly forgotten, that *Alexander the Great* had so compleatly ruin'd it as he did. A *Greek Priest*, who pretends to be an Antiquary, shew'd us the Attack where that Monarch was wounded in the Breach, and the Foundation of the Wall, which for seven Months resisted his whole Army. He told us, that the great Church, which is as much ruin'd as are all the other Edifices, was built on the Platform of the Palace of its primitive Kings; and that it

was the Place where was held that grand Council, in which the Partisans of *Arius* triumph'd over *St. Athanasius*. But at length this celebrated City, which had once under its Dominion not only that Sea, which was its near Neighbour, but also those others whither its Arms had penetrated, is now reduced to no better a State than that of a poor wretched Town. The *Egyptians* give to the *Tyrians* the Honour of being the Inventors of Writing, and of being the first Men who distinguish'd themselves on the Element of Water.

At our quitting *Tyre*, we travers'd a very fertile Plain, which led us within two Miles of *Roselain*. This is the Place where we are still shewn three beautiful Cisterns, which they call the *Cisterns of Solomon*. The Country People assure us, that this Prince caused them to be built at his own Cost, as a Recompence to King *Hiram*, for part of the Cost he had been at, in sending him Materials for the holy Temple: But the *Jews*, who took the Opportunity of our Convoy to go to *Jerusalem*, and who appear'd to us well vers'd in Antiquities, assur'd us, that these Cisterns are much more modern than *Solomon*, and that all the *Phanicians* told us upon those Heads was no other than mere Fable, which they were not able to prove by



by any single Inscription, much less by the Authority of any genuine Book.

Be it as it will, it is a Place well worth the seeing. We left it in order to ascend a Promontory, or white Cape, which is of an astonishing Height. As we go on, we pass by near the Ruins of a Castle, which *Alexander the Great* caus'd to be erected. This Castle is still call'd *Scandalium*; a Name which is deriv'd from its Founder, whom the *Turks* call *Scander*. At a League's Distance from this Fortrefs, we enter'd the Plain of *Acre*, having gone through some stony and very difficult Roads. This Plain extends in Length from Mount *Saron* to Mount *Carmel*, about seven Leagues; and I believe the Breadth is of two good Leagues between the Sea and the Mountain. It is surprizing, that a Plain so well water'd as this is, and which might be render'd one of the most fertile Spots of Ground in the Universe, should be left in so very bad a Condition as we found it, for want of being cultivated.

We went out of *Jerusalem* Road on purpose to pay a Visit to Mount *Carmel*, which is a Mountain of *Galilee* in *Palestine*, on the *Mediterranean* Coast. Here are to be seen several little Hills and Vallies, ever green, large Woods full of lofty Trees, many good Springs, beautiful Fountains, and abundance of Vines very much neglected: The Air is

here extremely good, and the Fruits as excellent as the Wine. They tell us also, that there is great Plenty of the best Game. The Bare-foot *Carmelites* have there a Convent hewn out of the Rock, from whence one discovers a vast Extent of Sea, together with the Cities of *Cayphas* and *St. John D'Acre*. Towards the Foot of the Mountain they shew us the Cave of *Elisha*, which by the *Turks* and *Arabs* is no less honour'd than it is by the *Christians* and *Jews*: It is generally kept by a *Mahometan* Religious, who, at a very reasonable Price, permits us to view it. On this very Mountain several other Caves, or Grotto's, are to be met with, whether of the Prophet *Elias*, or *Elijah*, or of his Disciple *Elisha*, all which are no better preserv'd than are the other Buildings which were formerly to be seen in that Place: But there does not appear the least Remains of the Cities which *Pliny* and *Suetonius* mention.

From Mount *Carmel*, we return'd by the Way we took in going thither, to the same Place where we quitted the Road which leads to the Holy City, into which we re-enter'd, near an ancient Town call'd *Zib*. There is abundance of Probability that it is the *Achzib*, mention'd in the 29th of *Joshua*. In case it is this City of *Achzib*, it is one of the Places from whence the *Asserites* were

were not able to drive the natural *Cananites*. The City of *St. John D'Acre*, which is no more than three Leagues distant from this last Place, was anciently call'd *Acho*. This City, of which the *Israelites* could never make themselves Masters, left its ancient Name for that of *Ptolemais*, given it by *Ptolemy*, to whom it ow'd its Enlargement. It was often attack'd and defended both by the *Christians* and *Infidels*, and in Conclusion sack'd by the *Barbarians*. Trade has a little brought it to itself; and our *European* Adventurers, who there make no bad Hand of it, may, perhaps, in Time re-establish it, in some measure, to what it once was: But, at present, whatever Advantage it may reap both from the Goodness of its Port, and from its agreeable Situation, it is a most wretched Place, in which one meets with nothing but miserable Remnants of the Palaces, as well of its Princes, as of the Grand Master of several different Military Orders, who could never agree among themselves.

We departed from *St. John D'Acre*, under a Convoy of *Janizaries*; and after having for some time, coasted along the Sea-shoar, we directed our Course towards the South, where we pass'd a River, perhaps the antient *Balus*, the Sand whereof still is us'd in making Glas: They assure us, that, at least, it serv'd in the first Invention of  
that



that Art. In this Place it was, that our Guides counsell'd us not to keep any longer to the Sea-coast; and when we had travers'd a very dry and barren Plain, we, in three Hours, found ourselves at its Extremity, which is bounded by Mount *Carmel*. A Valley very narrow, and not a little uncouth, led us from the Plain of *Acre*, to that of *Esdrelon*, nor far from the Place where terminated the Territories of the Tribe of *Asher*, and those of *Zebulon* began. As we pass'd the afore said narrow Valley, we from thence discover'd the ancient River *Kishon*, which waters with its Streams the Plain of *Esdrelon*; and, gliding negligently by Mount *Carmel*, falls into the Sea near *Cayphas*: This River becomes considerable only by the great Number of Torrents which precipitate themselves therein, as they descend from the Mountains.

From this River of *Kishon*, which, perhaps, is not the same we imagine it to be, we arriv'd at a small Eminence, near a *Khan*, or Inn, call'd *Leguna*, where we caus'd our Tents to be pitch'd in order to pass the Night. From this little Hillock is discover'd the vast Plain of *Esdrelon*, which serves the *Arabians* for Pasturage. We decamp'd from *Leguna*; and having march'd seven Leagues, we pass'd the Remainder of the Day, and that Night on a rising Ground, from whence we had a full

full Prospect of *Nazareth* and the Mounts of *Thabor* and *Hermon*. The Neighbourhood of two Camps of *Arabs*, which were continually skirmishing with each other, kept us very alert in this Place; which we had scarce left when we met a Troop of those People, by whom we were conducted to their *Emir*, who shew'd a Regard to the \* *Firman* which I had from the *Porte*. This *Firman* is a Passport from the Grand Signor, of which I had not hitherto made any Use: Had I came unprovided with it, according to all Appearances, I should have been effectually plunder'd; those Cavaliers seeming to me to be of no extraordinary good Disposition, and in some Want of a Prize. I took my Leave of his *Arabian* Highness with all convenient Speed; and after having travers'd three or four not very large Vallies, and a well cultivated Plain, we arriv'd at *Capbar-Arab*, which is an obscure little Hamlet, distant five Leagues from the Plain of *Esdrelon*.

From *Capbar-Arab* we din'd at *Sebastia*, where we leave the Precincts of the half Tribe of *Menasseh* to enter on those of *Ephraim*. *Sebastia* is the ancient *Samarra*, a celebrated City of *Palestine*, and the Capital of the Kingdom of *Israel*. *Amri*, whom his Army seated on the Throne, after the De-

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\* Not Ferment, as it is in the French Original.

mise of King *Ela*, call'd it *Samaria*, after the Name of *Sameron*, who sold him the Mountain on which he caus'd it to be built. This City, so famous by its Misfortunes, was destroy'd by *Salmanasser* King of *Assyria*, who took it after a three Years Siege: *Hircan* compleated its Desolation; and there is now little Appearance that King *Herod the Great*, who, in Honour of *Augustus*, nam'd it *Sebasta*, had ever perfectly re-establish'd it. By its pleasant and advantageous Situation it commands a most exuberant Valley, which is on one Side bounded by a Semi-circle of beautiful Hillocks, which afford a no indifferent View. In this City are to be seen the Remnants of a Church suppos'd to have been erected by the Empress *Helena*, on the Foundation of the Prison wherein *St. John the Baptist* was confin'd; and I had Leave to ascend, by a very much ruined Stair-case, into the very Chamber where, they tell us, the holy *Præcursor* was put to Death. The *Turks* have a very great Respect for this Place, which they imagine they have highly honour'd by building near it a little *Mosque*.

From *Sebasta*, by Roads excessively rugged and stony, we reach'd *Naplosa*, formerly *Sichem*. Few Cities in the Scriptures are so illustrious as this. I took a Walk on an Eminence which overlooks a Valley, surrounded by many little Hills. If the *Jews* whom I consulted



consulted are not mistaken, it is the Place where *Abraham* settled at his Departure from *Mesopotamia*. At two Leagues Distance from *Naplosa* I went to see the Heritage and Sepulcher of *Joseph*. There is nothing to be met with but a Vault, very much neglected, without either Monument, or any Inscription. The Inhabitants of the Country will absolutely have it, that the blessed Patriarch is inhum'd in that ancient Grotto: But People may believe whatever they think fit, without any Prospect of being ever farther illuminated. In the *Jewish Antiquities* you may read the Description *Josephus* gives us of the City of *Sichem*; you'll find it in the fifth Book: But nothing is now to be distinguish'd except its Situation, which lies between the Mounts *Garizim* and *Ebal*. Its Ruins are at the Foot of the first of these Hills.

I went with my *Tergiman* (not *Dragoman*, as many Authors, as well as this, have it) to visit the Grand-Priest of the *Samaritans*, who resides at *Naplosa*, which is the same that *St. John* calls *Sichar*. I caus'd my Interpreter to inquire of this venerable *Samaritan*, " How it happen'd, that the *Hebrew*  
 " *Pentateuch*, (and by Consequence ours)  
 " teaches us, That it was upon Mount *Ebal*  
 " that the Lord commanded the Children  
 " of *Israel* to fix large Stones, and to en-  
 " grave

“grave thereon the whole Substance of their  
 “Law, to set up there an Altar, to eat,  
 “and rejoice there in the Presence of the  
 “Eternal: And, that on the contrary, that  
 “of which the *Samaritans* are possess’d, in-  
 “forms us, That it was on Mount *Garizim*,  
 “that the Almighty vouchsaf’d to signify to  
 “His People His holy Pleasure?” The An-  
 “swer he return’d me was, “That the *Jews*  
 “who mortally hated the *Samaritans*, had  
 “maliciously corrupted the Text, putting  
 “*Ebal* for *Garizim*,” alleging many other  
 Particulars which were not much to the Pur-  
 pose: But above all, he would needs have it,  
 that Mount *Ebal*, because it is exceedingly  
 dry, barren, and disagreeable, is the *Moun-*  
*tain of Curses*; and that *Garizim* is the *Moun-*  
*tain of Blessings*, on Account of its being  
 very fertile and extremely well cultivated.  
 What is most to be depended on, is, that  
 from the Reign of *Jeroboam* the *Samaritans*  
 began to mix with the Worship of false Dei-  
 ties that of the Eternal Creator. The best,  
 and the only valuable Piece of this *Sacerdote’s*  
 Library was a very ancient Copy of the *Sa-*  
*maritan Pentateuch*, which I could not pre-  
 vail with him to sell me.

The City of *Naplosa*, tho’ the Residence  
 of a *Basba*, who however makes no extra-  
 ordinary Figure, is not for that ever the  
 richer or the greater. We stay’d there but  
 one

one Day. Pursuing our Journey through a narrow Valley between *Ebal* and *Garizim*, we pass'd by the Grotto where I had been to see the pretended Tomb of *Joseph*: I had been indifferently enough pay'd for my Curiosity the first Time not to revisit it. About a Mile from thence we found a Well, said to have been *Jacob's*, and the same where *Jesus Christ* converted the *Samaritan Woman*: If it is the same, the City of *Sichem* must formerly have been of far larger Extent than the View of its present Ruins would induce us to believe. This Well, which is cover'd over with a pitiful Arch, made of Mud, is pierc'd through a Rock, and may be about nine Foot in Diameter, and one hundred Foot in Depth: By a Cord which we let down, we judg'd that it contain'd between five and six Foot of Water. Many fabulous Stories are told of this Well; from whence we pursu'd our Journey Southward, through a spacious and fertile Plain, which we quitted to repair to *Khan-Leban*, which is not far from a most delicious Valley. Near this *Khan* we encamp'd that Night, from whence we fell into very troublesome and difficult Roads; and passing near the Limits which divided the Tribes of *Ephraim* and *Benjamin*, we rested one Night at *Beer*, which is the Place whither *Jotham* retir'd to avoid the Anger of his Brother *Abimelech*. This Country, tho' very



very uneven and stony, produces Milk, Honey Oil, Wines, and every one of the Bounties of the Earth which are the principal Nourishment of the *Eastern* People.

Three Leagues beyond *Beer*, we discover'd the City of *Jerusalem*; and leaving *Rama* and the Plain of *Jericho* on the Right, and the Mountains of *Gilead* on the Left, we arriv'd at the Walls of the Holy City; I presently sent my Pass from the *Porte* to the *Basha*, who granted me Leave to enter this miserable City, which is now as desolate, as it was once opulent and flourishing. I took up my Lodging in *St. Saviour's* Convent, whose Father *Guardian* receiv'd me in the best Manner he could. Among the whole Number of the Religious, who are of the *Franciscan* Order, I found only five or six *French*, and as many *Italians*; all the rest of his numerous Community being *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*. This Monastery has not any thing considerable about it, except its Church, the Treasure whereof is immense.

I was no sooner got into my Lodging, but I was visited by an Officer from the *Basha*, to demand of me the Duty of being permitted to abide for some Days in the City: That and the Liberty of walking about where I would, cost me forty *Chiquins*, exclusive of the Pay I gave my two *Janizaries*, which indeed was no great Matter.

**Matter.** St. Sepulcher's Church is rather rich than fine: It stands on Mount *Calvary*, which is a small Eminence upon Mount *Moriach*, which is somewhat larger. This was the Place where formerly Criminals were executed, and on Account of the Use to which it was destin'd, was a little Way without the City Walls; but since its having been purify'd by the Blood of the Son of God, it stands in the midst of *Jerusalem*. To effect this Alteration, a considerable Part of Mount *Sion*, now without the Walls, must have yielded its Place to Mount *Calvary*. Every one of the Stations in which our Saviour's Passion was transacted, seem to be very well preserv'd; and the Place on Mount *Calvary*, where it is thought that *Jesus Christ* was nailed on the Cross, is left intirely as it was; insomuch that it is elevated above the Floor of the Church, and is ascended by eighteen Steps. I was told, that the Holy Sepulcher was formerly a sort of Vault, hewn out of, and as it were, buried in the Rock: At present it is a Grotto which appears above Ground, the Rock having been wholly cut away all around it. The *Latins*, the *Greeks*, the *Armenians*, and the poor *Coptics*, have there each of them their Habitations, and their Sanctuaries: But the most precious of them all is that where *Jesus Christ* was interr'd. The *Greeks* and *Latins* formerly have contended, and still dispute for the Possession there.

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thereof, after a Manner the most uncivil and most scandalous imaginable : However, the *Latins* are now in Possession ; but would not, perhaps, be long so, were they not either stronger or richer than their Competitors. The *Greeks*, who are naturally as superstitious as knavish, invent all sorts of pious Frauds and Stratagems to get Money in that sanctify'd Place : Not but that you must needs have heard of a Coelestial Fire, which their Patriarch distributes on *Holy Saturday*, to continue a Ceremony which had been established in favour of a Miracle, which heretofore happen'd in the *Holy Sepulcher*, where on *Easter-Eve*, a considerable Flame came visibly down from Heaven, and piercing through the Windows and arch'd Roof of the Church, lighted all the Lamps which had been extinguish'd since the Morning of *Good-Friday*. It is so I have been told the Story ; as to the rest, I leave you at liberty to believe as you think proper.

I went to visit, without *Damascus Gate*, a small College of *Derwishes*, highly reverence'd by *Mahometans*, *Jews*, and *Christians*. Near to it they shew a Grotto, or Cave, where they will needs have it, that the Prophet *Jeremiah* took up his Abode. After that, I went to see the Sepulchers of the Kings. By what we read in the Holy Scripture, we cannot believe that any of the Kings of *Israel*, or of *Judah*, were there deposited,



posited, since it informs us, that their Burial-place was elsewhere : But if this is not the real Place where they were interr'd, it may, by its Magnificence, be well judg'd to have been the Work of many Kings. What is actual Matter of Fact, is, that the *Jews* assert, That at least three or four of their Princes must needs have been there deposited ; and the Successors of *Godfrey of Bouillon*, and his Brother King *Baldwin*, found Tombs far less sumptuous ; nothing being plainer than the Monuments of those Princes, which are to be seen in one of the Chappels of the *Holy Sepulcher*.

I visited the River *Jordan*, in company of a numerous Body of Pilgrims. It would be very dangerous to undertake that Journey without a good Convoy. We went out of a Gate call'd *St. Stephen's*, and having first travers'd the Valley of *Jehosopbat*, and a Part of Mount *Olivet*, we came to *Bethany*. This is a small Village, no less ruin'd than is an antiquated Building which we meet with at our Entrance into that Place : This they call the Castle of *Lazarus*, and undoubtedly take it for the Place of his Residence. At no great Distance from thence, in a kind of Meadow, they shew the Sepulcher where he was buried, and from whence he was recall'd to a second mortal Life, by the miraculous Voice of his Lord. The *Turks*, who

have that Place in Veneration, suffer no *Christian* to enter therein without a Piece of Money. The Abode, real or imaginary, of *Mary Magdalen*, is at the same Distance from hence as is the *Fountain* of the *Apostles*. Some Miles from thence, we enter into a frightful Desert, whither the *Son of God* was conducted and tempted by the Evil Spirit: It would be no easy Matter to meet with a more dismal Place than this, notwithstanding one discovers from the Summit of those horrible Mountains, the Hills of *Arabia* and the *Dead-Sea*, the Prospect whereof is far from being disagreeable. We after this reach'd the Plain of *Fericho*, where we pass'd by the Foot of a horrible Mountain, which we are told, is the same to which the Devil carry'd our Lord when he attempted to deceive him. At a Mile's Distance from hence we meet with the Fountain of *Elisha*, so nam'd, because that Prophet purg'd it from its Saltness: This Fountain waters a part of the Plain. As for *Fericho*, it is no other than a wretched Village, altogether as much buried under its own Ruins, as is the House of *Zacheus*; from whence we arriv'd on the Bank of the *Jordan*, which is but two Hours travelling from thence: To reach it we pass through a Plain which produces nothing but Fennel, and a few useless Weeds. Near this River's Side  
we

we find a Convent, and a Church very much decay'd, dedicated to St. *John*, in Memory of our Saviour's Baptism. It is very difficult to follow the Course of the River *Jordan*, by Reason that its Banks on either Side are closely border'd with *Tamarinds*, *Oleanders*, and *Willows*, which, however, were not Obstacles enough to a good Number of our Pilgrims, to deter them from forcing their Way through, to bathe in the Streams of that River, which is only remarkable for what is said of it in the Holy Scripture.

Accompany'd by a few of the most Curious, I detach'd from the Gros of our Troop, in order to take a View of the *Dead-Sea*, the Neighbourhood whereof is uncouth enough. Before we can come near to it, we pass a Spot of Ground, the Passage whereof is interrupted by a great many Ditches, believ'd to be the same where the Kings of *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah* were vanquish'd. The *Dead-Sea* is encompass'd by very high Mountains: It is bounded on the North by the Plain of *Fericho*, and it is on this Side that it receives the Waters of the *Jordan*. But this pretended Sea, is, properly speaking, no other than a Lake, which may be about twenty Leagues in Length, and six in Breadth. Round its Shore we find a sort of black Pebbles, which may be set on Fire with the Flame of a Torch or Candle; but



the Stench of them, when lighted, is insupportable : I pick'd up a parcel of those Pebbles, which are as smooth and shining as the finest black Marble, when polish'd. The Natives of the Country say, That the Fish taken in that Lake are not fit to eat; and that the Birds, which flie near its Surface, drop down dead into it : Nothing is more fabulous than these Reports, which are altogether as false as a multitude of other Stories which have been put on Record, as well on this, as on divers other Occasions. I have been shew'd some of the *Bitumen*, which has so very near a resemblance to Pitch, that the Merchants would be daily deceiv'd therewith, did not its sulphureous Taste and Scent acquaint them, that it is no other than the clammy Slime which this Lake produces, the Water whereof, tho' very clear, is excessively bitter, and of a most noisom Taste.

I was at the Place where they tell us, that at low Ebb may be discover'd some of the Ruins of *Gomorrhah*, which I as vainly endeavour'd to find out, as I did the Remainder of *Lot's* Wife : However, I had positive Assurances, that, towards a small Promontory, at the West-end of this Sea, I might find a very visible Monument of this antient Metamorphosis. It was, doubtless, no more permitted me to see extraordinary Things

Things on that Day, than it had been on all the rest of the Days of my whole Life ; nor could I any more meet with the Apples of *Sodom* than with the Trees on which they grow. According to the Manner the *Jews* have discours'd with me concerning this Fruit, I am apt enough, with them, to believe it to be the Invention of some bright Genius, merely to furnish such, who are dispos'd to make Use of them, with Matter and Comparisons to work upon.

From hence, in the Plain of *Jericho*, I re-join'd our numerous Troop of Pilgrims, who had unmercifully plunder'd the Plants which bear those Roses to which such marvellous Properties are so liberally assign'd. Before I re-enter'd the Holy City, I had an Inclination to take a View of *Bethlem*. To come at it one is to pass through the Valley of *Rephaim*, celebrated by the Victories there gain'd by *David* over the *Philistines*. In going thither, I saw a Building, which we are told was the Habitation of *Simeon*. This Tenement is not far from *Rachel's* Tomb, nor from a Convent, in a very ruinous Condition, which was formerly erected in Honour of *St. Elias*. I also visited all the holy Places which are in *Bethlem* ; the Room where *Jesus Christ* was born, the Manger wherein he is reported to have been laid, the Chappels of the Innocents, and of *St. Joseph*, near those

those of *St. Jerom*, *St. Paul*, &c. of *Eustochium*. In the Neighbourhood of *Bethlem*, they shew the Ground where King *Solomon's* Gardens stood, with the Fountains and Lav-  
 vers thereto belonging; but to speak to you my Mind frankly, I could not trace the least Step of that Prince's Magnificence. West-  
 ward of the Town we meet with a Well, which goes by *David's* Name, taken by some *Hebrews* to be a Cave wherein that beatified Prophet hid himself, to avoid the Fury of *Saul*, who pursu'd him; and to render their Story the more moving, they add, that he there compos'd his *De Profundis*. This Well stands about a Mile from the Aqueduct, which convey'd the Water from *Solomon's* Cisterns to the City of *Jerusalem*. We re-enter'd *Bethlem* in order to dine at the Convent of the *Franciscans*, who are oblig'd to receive and entertain all Pilgrims who pass that Way: What is really very hard upon that Community is, that the *Mahometans* compel them to exercise the same Hospitality towards them; and which they too frequently abuse.

From the Town, or rather poor Village of *Bethlem*, I return'd, in two Hours, to the Holy City, where I continu'd to visit all that is curious to be seen. I was shew'd the Place where stood *St. Peter's* Prison, *Zebedee's* House, and a small Church built on the Ruins



Ruins of St. Mark's Habitation. The *Syrians*, who are possess'd of this Place of Worship, shew'd me a *Syriac* Manuscript, which they affirm to have belong'd to St. *Polycarp*. I likewise saw, in their little Church the Stone Font in which the Apostles us'd to baptize such who demanded Baptism. From this Monastery I pass'd to that of the *Armenians*, which includes the greatest Part of Mount *Sion*, which is, as I have already observ'd, within the City Wall. In this Church I saw two Altars of an uncommon Magnificence; and there are even few whose Treasure is so considerable. I am told that, without my taking Notice of it, I was shew'd St. *Ann's* House. We pass'd by *Sion* Gate to the Habitation of *Caiphas*, near which, in a Chapel, also belonging to the *Armenians*, we see the Stone which was made Use of to shut up the Mouth of the Holy Sepulcher: Only part of this Stone is in View, that *Christians* may kiss it for Devotion. The Faithful have likewise great Devotion for a little Cell, in the same Place, where it is pretended that our Saviour was confin'd before he was led to *Pilate*: This is very near the Room where St. *Peter* is said to have deny'd his Master; and the Hall, in which *Jesus Christ* instituted the Holy Supper, stands near a tolerably well-built *Mosque*.

In a Garden planted at the Foot of Mount *Moriach*, I visited several large Vaults, which touch the Mountain on that Side, and advance about one hundred and thirty Paces under Ground. This is believ'd to have been a subterraneous Work, made on purpose to extend the Court belonging to *Solomon's* Temple, of which I only saw, at a considerable Distance, the lofty and magnificent Remains of its outermost Gate, which is still the principal Entrance into the chief *Mosque*, which no *Christian* is suffer'd to examine: I have been assur'd, that what little is yet remaining of the Temple is superlatively glorious; but as it is a far easier Matter to believe all they tell us than to go to see it, I hope you will not take it amiss that I rested satisfy'd with what Intelligence I could get, in order to be in a Condition peaceably to visit *Beth-sheba's* Bathing-Place, which is at the Foot of Mount *Sion*: They will needs have it to be the very same where *David* espy'd her washing herself. The Valley of *Hiron*, which is at a very little Distance from this Bathing-Place, formerly furnish'd some Curiosities: At its *West* End I saw the *Potter's* Field, and the *Field of Blood*, so nam'd, as it is to be presum'd you have read, because it was purchas'd with the Pieces of Silver which were the Price of the Blood of *Jesus Christ*. Without going far from that Spot of Ground, which

which the *Basha* farms out to the *Armenians*; we come to the Extremity of the Valley of *Hiron*, which joins with that of *Jehosopbat*, whose Bounds are sometimes water'd by the Torrent of *Cedron*. In this last Valley I was made to take Notice of the famous Well of *Nehemiah*, which is no less rever'd than is a Tree, standing on its Left, which we are told grows in the very Spot where the Prophet *Isaiah* was saw'd asunder. The Town and Cistern of *Siloe* are about eighty Paces from thence; and opposite to a delicate Fountain, to which are attributed as many wonderful Properties as it has different Appellations, we, with no small Pains, clear'd from Earth the Foundation of a ruined Palace, suspected to have been that wherein *Solomon* kept his foreign Concubines. A Mile distant from thence we see the Mountain of *Offence*, so nam'd because that Prince erected sumptuous Mansions, in which he shut himself up with the Women who prevail'd over him. But all this is only bare Conjecture; and the rather to be so thought, by Reason that not one Inscription, Pyramid, or the like is to be met with to direct how to distinguish those different Stations.

I took a Walk in a Field which is call'd *Aeldama*, where it is presum'd that *Judas* hang'd himself: This Field is not far from the Town or Village of *Siloe*, and a very intricate



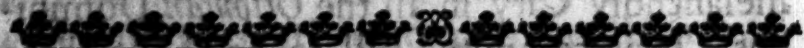
tire Sepulcher, said to be *Zachary's*. We  
 find, at the Bottom of the Valley of *Jehoso-*  
*phat*, a Grotto, or Cave, wherein, according  
 to the Tradition of the Country, the blessed  
*Virgin Mary* was interr'd: I went down into  
 it by a Stair-Case which seems to have once  
 been very beautiful, and in the same Cave I  
 saw the Sepulchers of *St. Ann* and *St. Joseph*.  
 After this I visited the Sanctuaries which were  
 built formerly on Mount *Olivet*: There was  
 a Chappel anciently erected in the Place from  
 whence *Jesus Christ* quitted the Earth to as-  
 cend to Heaven. The *Turks* have built a  
*Mosque* on that Spot: Many other Places of  
 the highest Veneration are possess'd by the  
*Infidels*, as much through Avarice as Devo-  
 tion. I went to see *Pilate's* pretended Pa-  
 lace, now the dwelling House of a *Janizary*,  
 who gave me Leave to go up to the Terrass,  
 or Top of his House, from whence, in the  
 best Manner I was able, I examin'd the Si-  
 tuation of the Place where the Temple of  
 the Lord once stood. I believe it not to be  
 possible to meet with, throughout the Uni-  
 verse, a Spot of Earth more convenient and  
 proper to erect an august Edifice than this ap-  
 pear'd in my Eyes to be: In the Midst of it  
 stands a *Mosque*, which, as they affirm, is built  
 on a Part of the Temple's Foundation: This  
*Mosque* has no other Beauty than the Advan-  
 tage of its delicious Situation. In this House,  
 which

which is generally look'd on to have been the Palace of *Pilate*, curious Travellers are shew'd the Hall in which the temerarious *Jews* derided the *Son of God*: Upon Mount *Gibon*, I saw a beautiful Laver, which bears his Name, and which is yet pretty well preserv'd.

As for *Jerusalem* at present, it is, without Dispute, the most disagreeable, and the most melancholy City in all the *Ottoman* Dominions. It is computed still to be about three Miles in Circumference; but almost all that is to be seen of it appears to be modern: Only the Situation of the Temple could not be chang'd, together with a Part of its *Portico*, which Time had spar'd, and the *Turks* still preserve as the sole Ornament of their *Mosque*. This City seems to me very indifferently peopled, the Bulk of its *Mahometan* Inhabitants consisting in the *Basha's* and *Cady's* Militia, and five or six hundred *Turkish* Religious, belonging to the *Mosques*. The rest of its Inhabitants are *Arabs*, *Jews*, and *Schismatick Christians*; *Greeks*, *Armenians*, *Maronites*, *Abissines*, and *Nestorians*. The *Latins* are almost all *Recolets* or *Cordeliers*: The greatest Part of these last reside in the Convent of *St. Saviour*, the Father Guardian whereof (who is never a *Frenchman*) officiates with Episcopal State and Authority, and has Right and Power

Power to accept *Knights* of the *Holy Sepulcher*.

To-morrow I depart from the Holy City for *Damascus*, from whence I intend to revisit *Alexandria*, in order to return into *Europe*. You shall be the first whom I will acquaint with the Course I design to steer, and with the Success of my Voyage.



## LETTER XII.

*Tripoly, June 28, 1721!*

**A**T my Departure from *Jerusalem* I follow'd the same Rout which I had before taken in going from *Caphar-Arab* to that Holy City: But from *Caphar-Arab* I travers'd the Plain of *Esdrelon*, leaving *Acre* on the Left, in order to strike into the *Nazareth* Road. I had a transient View of the Ruins of the City of *Jacen*; but pass'd on without giving myself the Trouble to visit a certain neighbouring Castle, where an *Arabian* Prince, one who is reported to be very much of an *Arabian*, takes up his Residence.

*Nazareth*, at this Day, is nothing more than a poor contemptible Village, situated  
in



in a little Valley, which is bounded by a Mountain of an indifferent Height, on the Summit whereof seven or eight *Latin Monks* pass their Lives in no small Austerity and Mortification. The Church of *Nazareth*, built formerly in a vast Grotto, is now totally in Ruins, and buried under Ground. This Grotto is held in Veneration, as the Place where it is presum'd that the Virgin *Mary* was saluted by the Angel, with *Ave Maria, Gratia plena, &c.* This Church bore the Form of a Cross, and the natural Rock still serves the Place where it stood for an arch'd Vault or Covering. At about twenty Paces distance from these Ruins, I was requir'd to take Notice of the Remains of *Joseph's* House, wherein, directly repugnant to the Sentiments of the *Jews*, some learn'd Men will needs have it that *Jesus Christ* pass'd about twenty Years of his Life. Near to this I was shew'd the Remnants of that Synagogue where our Lord and Saviour preach'd the Sermon mention'd in the fourth Chapter of *St. Luke*. In each of those Places, the Empress *Hellena* caus'd a beautiful Church to be erected; but there is now not the least Tract of her Piety subsisting. With Difficulty enough I got up to the Top of Mount *Thabor*, which is distant from *Nazareth* only two Leagues. It is a pleasant, and very high Mountain, to be met with in the Plain of

of *Galilea*; but I am not positive whether it can be made out to be the very Place of our Lord's Transfiguration. Its Summit is very fertile, and extremely agreeable; and some Remains of Walls and lin'd Ditches I saw there incline me to conjecture that the Place might anciently have been fortified. My Lodging at *Nazareth* was at the *Cordeliers* Hospital, of which good Fathers I took Leave to return to the Road which leads to *Acre*. In going thither, I pass'd through some Plains tolerably agreeable, tho' they come far short of the Beauty of that of *Zabulon*; which in Reality quite charm'd me: But as I was nothing near so much delighted with the Cities of *Acre* and *Seyda*, I did not think proper to make any long Abode in either of them; and from the last of those Places I set out for *Damascus*, which City I might have reach'd in three Days, had I not stay'd four in *Lebanon*, which is a Mountain between *Palestine* and *Syria*. Its Name *Liban*, or *Lebanon*, is suppos'd to have been given it in Regard to its Whiteness, being, on the North Side, perpetually cover'd with Snow. The Country People assure us, that the Circuit of this Mountain is full a hundred Leagues: One of its Extremities touch the Borders of *Syria*, the other those of *Phœnicia*, and the *Mediterranean* Sea washes its Western Foot. Mount *Lebanon* is compos'd  
of

of a four-fold Range of Mountains, one above the other; whereof the most that I saw was one half of the first, which I found extremely well cultivated and very populous: The second, which I could not visit, is stony and very difficult of Ascent, but otherwise affords an agreeable Prospect, and is the more so by Reason of abundance of Springs and Fountains, never dry, and which much contribute to its Beauty: The third is so exquisitely delicious, that many have taken it for the Terrestrial Paradise; and the fourth has nothing to attract one's Curiosity. The *Jordan*, the *Kochan*, the *Nakar*, the *Rossens*, and the *Nakar-Khadegia*, call'd also *The Holy River*, have their Sources in these Mountains, as they tell us; which Mountains, according to our Writers, were not inhabited till after the Deluge: But those who consult the *Egyptians*, and the *Pre-Adamites*, very stiffly oppose them, contradicting the Veracity of this *Epocha*. On Mount *Lebanon* are to be seen some small Cities, and a good Number of Towns and Villages, well peopled by *Druses* and *Maronites*: These last are the best *Catholicks* in all the *East*. It is said, that on the most fertile of these Mountains, there are still remaining sixteen ancient Cedars of a most prodigious Growth, and very many others of a lesser Size, which grow insensibly. From thence it was that King *Solomon* caus'd



the Timber to be brought which he us'd in building the Temple. The Wood of the Cedar-Tree is incorruptible: It grows to a scarce credible Height, its Leaves and Fruit always pointing upwards.

The *Anti-Lebanon* would be very much like the other, of which I have been speaking, were it as well peopled with *Maronites* and *Druses*, as is that: These latter, whose Religion is not over-much known, are so defective in their Morals, that I could not suffer myself to be persuaded that they are descended from a Colony of *French*, which was settled in *Palestine* under the Reign of *Godfrey of Bouillon*, as they are reported to be. These *Druses* have among them their Princes, and Persons of distinguish'd Quality, as well as the *Maronites*; but the latter are People of much better Principles and far greater Humanity.

Having visited some Part of Mount *Lebanon*, I re-enter'd the Road which leads to *Damascus*, which City was formerly the Capital of *Syria*, as it is now of *Phœnicia*. It is one of the fairest and most opulent Cities of the whole *Ottoman Empire*: The *Grand Signor* has there a *Basha*, which Employ is very much sought after in the *Seraglio*. It is pretended, that *Damascus* was founded by a Grandson of *Noah*: Be that as it will, its Situation is in a most beautiful Plain, at the  
Foot

Foot of Mount *Lebanon*: A great Number of pretty little Eminences surround, without too much confining, it, and are no less conducive to its delicious Prospect than is the River *Baradi*; which, dividing itself into two Streams, by the Abundance of its Waters, contributes to the Beauty of its Gardens, and to the Fertility of its charming circumjacent Plains. An immense Number of Fountains, and Buildings, kept in good Repair, render this City perfectly agreeable; and in the Scriptures it was anciently describ'd as a delicious and most celebrated City: Nay, several Authors call it the *Paradise of the World*. It is no less famous for the Excellence of its Fruits and Wines, than for a very considerable Quantity of valuable Manufactures, of which the fine Silks there made, find in all Parts a great Vent: But nothing is there transacted, by Way of Traffick, without the *Jews*, who are, as it were, the intire Proprietors of the whole Trade of that Place. Every one of the Sects of the *Oriental Christians* have their Establishments at *Damascus*; and I there met with five or six hundred *Catholicks*, under the Direction of the *Cordeliers* and *Capuchins*, who are there commodiously enough settled. We are inform'd in History of the Misfortunes which this City has undergone, having been often taken and re-taken by so many different Nations.

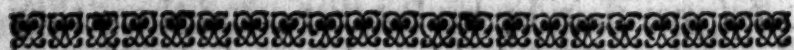
I made a fruitless Attempt to get a Sight of the fine Church there, dedicated to St. *John*, now by the *Turks* converted into a magnificent *Mosque*: I was assur'd, that the *Mahometan* Religious, to whose Care it is committed, there preserve the Head of that blessed Saint with all imaginable Respect; but I would not make too deep a Scrutiny into that Particular, to avoid alarming the Churches which boast of being illustrated and adorn'd with that precious *Depositum*.

From *Damascus*, I went to visit the Ruins of *Balbec*, which is believ'd to have been the ancient *Heliopolis*, or, The City of the Sun. It has preserv'd nothing of its pristine Splendor except the agreeable Situation, and some wretched Remains of an ancient Temple, which probably was once beautiful: I found, at about two hundred Paces from those Fragments, a Range of Pillars of the *Corinthian* Order, of an excessive Height and Bulk, which plainly demonstrate that the Edifice to which they belong'd was of no ordinary Magnificence in its flourishing Days. On a very considerable Number of Stones, employ'd in the Walls of *Balbec*, are to be seen *Roman* Names, Letters, and Inscriptions, but so effac'd, that none of them are easily to be read; and if they were, the *Turks*, who, in those Quarters, are extremely insolent, will not allow it. It was on one of the Mountains



tains in the Neighbourhood of *Balbec*, that *Abel* was slain by his Brother; and there they shew the pretended Sepulcher of that second Son of *Adam*: With no small Difficulty I clamber'd up to the Top of this Mountain; and there we meet with a few Inhabitants, detach'd from a very numerous Nation of People, who look on themselves to be descended from *Abel*. If those chaste Authors, who by the Light of certain Revelations, know that *Adam's* second Son preserv'd his Virginity to the very last, would but have taken the Pains to have convers'd with the learned Men of this Nation, they would have met with People who would infallibly have given them an Answer.

From *Balbec* I again pass'd over Part of the *Anti-Lebanon*, upon which the Air is far from being hot; and having visited the Patriarch of the *Maronites*, at his Convent in *Canobia*, I got to *Tripoly* in *Syria*, where I have met with a convenient Imbarcation for *Cyprus*; so that, in some Measure, I have alter'd my intended Route, not directing it by *Egypt*, as I at first design'd: But as, by so doing, I approach somewhat nearer to you, it is by so much the more to my Satisfaction.



## LETTER XIII.

Malta, October 2, 1721,

I Had a very favourable Passage from *Tripoly* to *Cyprus*, and landed at *Lernica*, where resides our Consul, with the *Gross* of the *French*, who are settled in that Island. Were not the Air so impure and so unwholesom, as it is some part of the Year, *Cyprus* would be a most delicious Abode: Exquisite Wines and most delicate Wild-Fowl, and all other Game are there in the greatest abundance; and at a very inconsiderable Expence, one may there enjoy the most innocent and most sought-for Pleasures. That Island, as you well know, was dedicated to *Venus*, by Reason that, in all Ages, its Inhabitants were of an amorous Complexion. This Goddess, who, as well as the fair *Helena*, was a Native of *Cerigo*, quitted the Place of her Birth to take up her Residence in *Cyprus*, where she founded *Cythera*: She was much delighted with *Paphos*; nor did she pass her Time unpleasantly at *Amathonta*. These three Cities built in Honour to her, had each of them a celebrated Temple, of all which I met

met with only miserable Fragments ; so that I can assure you, that I did not offer up any Sacrifice there to that Divinity. This Island, the Circumference whereof is about six-score Leagues, was in former Times divided into nine Kingdoms, the Sovereigns of which, most unworthy of that Title, wrought their own Destruction. In 1571, Sultan *Selim*, chiefly on Account of the great Reputation of its Wines, brought it under the *Ottoman* Yoke.

For want of a more convenient Passage, I was oblig'd to go from *Cyprus* to *Rhodes*, there to take the Opportunity of a *Maltese* Vessel, which was lading Oil and Wine : I went aboard in very bad Weather, which forc'd us to traverse many Leagues of Sea, for three Days successively, which Time I thought very tedious : We bore down upon the Coast of *Caramania*, where, being surpriz'd with a sudden Calm, we came to an Anchor. When we set Sail again, we were attack'd by a terrible Tempest, which hurry'd us to *Santorin*, where, with no less Danger than Difficulty, I got ashore. That Island is both fertile and well cultivated : Its chief Town is oblig'd to the *Jesuits* for its being the most *Catholick*, and the best govern'd Place in the *Archipelago*. The colour of the Sea-Water in the Port of *Santorin*, and on all that Side, appears quite



black and sooty, by Reason of the Mines of Sulphur under and about the Island: Very frequently subterraneous Fires are there kindled, eructing Flames to a stupendous Height, casting forth Pumice Stones into the Air with such amazing Violence, that the neighbouring Coasts are greatly terrify'd with the dreadful Noise thereof. About eighty Years since a prodigious Quantity of those Stones were cast out; and between eight and nine, a new Island, of about a Mile in Circuit, arose from the Bottom of the Sea, and fix'd its Station opposite to the Town of *Thera*, or *Santorin*; from whence we departed to put into the Harbour of *Nyo*, which Town is no less miserable than the rest of the Island: I there met with a couple of Bishops come from some other part of *Greece*, who were corrupting it still more and completing its Ruin. These Islanders flatter themselves with having the Ashes of *Homer*, whose Sepulcher they pretended to shew me. I was made to take Notice of the Blade of a Sabre, the Hilt and Guard whereof were of massive Gold, but the Helmet and Buckler, which accompanied it, were of a different Metal, to the very great Regret of a *Greek* Priest, who discover'd this Treasure in a Monument of fine white Marble, which he dug from under the Foundation of a House he had pull'd down, about twenty Years a-

go. This Tomb shall be that of *Hector*, or of *Achilles*, *Ulysses*, or any other famous *Grecian* Captain, just as you please: But they of *Nyo* pretend it to be the Sepulcher of *Egeus* whose Body the Sea, which goes by the Name of that Prince, very civilly brought ashore to them, after he had lost his Life in its Waves.

From *Nyo* we got into the Port of *Milo*, where I underwent a tedious six Weeks Confinement, not being able to go out of it. The Town of *Milo*, or *Melos*, would be agreeable enough, were it inhabited by People any wise so: It stands in a pretty Plain, by which it is abundantly supplied with all sorts of Grain and Pulse; and its Mountains which are full of Game, and abounding with pleasant little Risings, where all their Vines are planted, furnish them with Wine, which is held in esteem at *Malta*, and of which a great Quantity is expended at *Corfu*, for the Service of the *Venetian* Fleet. The Monastery of the *Capuchins* (where the ignorant Missionary belonging to it, has long since known nothing of the Rules of *St. Francis*.) is as well built as it is pleasantly situated. Nothing so much made me regret my being forc'd to stay so long at *Milo*, as did the very indifferent Company of our *Consul*, who certainly does that Post no manner of Honour. There was another Drole, who

who had been *Consul* before him, and who had belong'd to one of the King's Ships, on which he had serv'd in Quality of Pilot, and would serve us in the same Capacity, to conduct our Vessels out of the Port, the Entrance whereof is not easy. He, indeed, got us out; but we were scarce got into the open Sea, but a furious Hurrican, which all our Seamen had foreseen, cast us into the Port of *Andros*, whose Town is extremely populous. The *Latin* Bishop there leads a most edifying Life. This Island is fertile and well cultivated.

We left it, in order to continue our Voyage: But we were again constrain'd, by the Fury of the Winds, to seek a Sanctuary, which we found at *Napoli di Romania*, where our *Vice-Consul*, who is a good-natur'd *Languedocian*, does his Country great Honour. *Napoli*, call'd by the Ancients *Anaplia*, and the Metropolis of the *Morea*, is situated on the Top of a small Promontory, which divides itself into two Parts. It is exceedingly well peopled, and defended by Walls, which the Armies of the *Turkish* Sultans, *Mahomet* the Second, and *Suliman*, could not possibly break through: Had the *Venetians* in this last War, defended it so well, it had not, perhaps, chang'd its Master; what is really Fact is, that it is a delicious Place to live in. The *Greek* Patriarch has sold this Arch-Bishoprick



Bishopricks to a despicable little carroty Fellow, who no longer ago than the last Siege of *Corfu* was no better than a Swabber. This Prelate has already receiv'd some rough Corrections from the *Basba* of the *Morea*, who will find it no easy Matter to make an honest Man of him.

We directed our Course towards *Malta*, without meeting any better Success in our Navigation; but I nothing regreted this last Disappointment, when going ashore at *Modon*, I became acquainted with Monsieur *Clembaut*, Consul-General of the *Morea*, anciently *Peloponnesus*. I pass'd fifteen Days in this Country, our Captain having occasion for so much Time to refit his Ship and take in Corn. *Modon*, which the Ancients nam'd *Methone*, is surrounded by very good Walls, which were most vigorously defended by the *Venetian* Commander: The Place is melancholy, poor and ill peopled; but the adjacent Country is extremely smiling and pleasant, abundantly furnishing it with every Thing in Season that can be desir'd to make Life easy. *Coron*, which I likewise went to see, is a large City, which was basely given up by its cowardly Governor, notwithstanding the Strength and Goodness of its Ramparts are sufficient to encourage those who are to defend them. *Calamata*, *Navarin* and *Lepanto* have an Aspect no less uncouth than  
has

has *Patras*, tho' it is naturally one of the finest Cities in all *Peloponnesus*. It is one of the four Metropolitans of the *Morea*, whose Arch-Bishop has near a thousand Churches within his District. I there met with the Ruins of several celebrated Temples, in ancient Times dedicated to *Æthis*, *Jupiter Olympus*, *Minerva*, *Cybele*, and other Pagan Deities: That of *Diana* is the best preserv'd of them all: There was that savage Goddess formerly worship'd, to whom were yearly sacrific'd a Boy and a Girl. In the Gardens, which are half a League from the Town, I saw some very fine Cedars; but they come far short, in Height, of those on Mount *Lebanon*. From *Patras* in three Days we reach'd *Modon*, where I patiently waited for a Wind proper to convey us from the Coasts of *Morea*.

*Morea* is a large *Peninsula*, cali'd heretofore *Peloponnesus*, lying to the South of *Greece*: Its Circuit is near five hundred and fifty Miles. This State might probably derive its Name from *Mauria*, since its Figure nearly resembles a Mulberry Leaf; or perhaps it got that Appellation from the *Mauri*, or *Moors*, who are said to have there settled a Colony: Howsoever it was, the whole Country is, at this Day, divided into four Provinces, whereof *Clarence*, which anciently bore the Title of a Dukedom, is the most extensive:

extensive: The *Lesser Romania*, once the greatest Part of the Kingdom of *Argos*, and whereof *Napoli di Romania* is now the Capital, is a beautiful and fertile Province, famous in History for the Fens of *Lerna*, on the Banks whereof *Hercules* vanquish'd the Seven-headed Monster *Hydra*; that is to say, the seven Brothers, who, by their Tyranny, were laying waste the Country: *Malvasia*, (otherwise *Napoli di Malvasia*) the Castle whereof might be look'd on as impregnable, considering the *Turkish* Manner now-a-days, of besieging Places, is the most considerable City in those Quarters, highly celebrated for the Excellency of its Wines, and the Goodness of the Game, of all Sorts, there to be found in the greatest Abundance. The Mountain of *Maina*, formerly call'd *Pholoë*, is one of the largest in the whole *Peninsula*: It was near that Mountain that *Hercules* kill'd a great Number of *Centaur*s (which were no other than Robbers, Men of a Gigantick Size and Stature) who came to attack him in a certain Cave, belonging to one of the chief Inhabitants of the Country, who was regaling him with his delicious Wines. Mount *Mycena*, whose ancient Name was *Lyceus*, is not far from this Place, where the *Lacedemonians* ston'd to Death the Tyrant *Aristocrates*. On the Mountain of *Maina*, in former Days sacred to *Apollo*, *Bacchus*, *Ceres* and



and *Diana*, are to be seen the Remains of several sumptuous Temples, which the *Peloponnesians* had erected to the Honour of those False Divinities.

The Rivers of most Note in *Morea* are the *Carbon* or *Orsea*, and the *Eurotas*. The *Carbon*, anciently *Alpheus*, descends from Mount *Poglizi*, from whence it passes into the Province of *Belvedere*, in order to evacuate its Streams, and lose itself in the Gulph of *Arcadia*: This River is said to receive, during its Course, more than a hundred Torrents; and as it frequently conceals itself under Ground, from whence it again rises with greater Force, the Poets feign'd, That it pass'd under the Sea into *Sicily* to marry its Waters with those of the Fountain of *Arethusa*. On the *Eurotas* are to be seen a great Number of Swans of an extraordinary Beauty: This River the Poets, ingeniously, consecrated to *Apollo*, by Reason that its Banks are thick of Laurels. The River *Acheron*, so often mention'd, is much more considerable in the Fable than it is in *Epirus*.

The *Morea* is situated under a very healthy Climate, the Country of vast Extent, and exceedingly fertile: Its Inhabitants, now intirely under Yoke, want neither Industry nor Courage. This Kingdom, after having several times chang'd its Masters, at length became subject to the Greek Emperor *Emanuel*,  
a Prince

a Prince whose Vices wholly obscur'd the few Virtues he possess'd. He divided his States among five or six of his Sons, to whom he gave the Title of *Despots*, or *Lords*: These Dignities, in Proceſs of Time, deſcended not only to their Heirs, but were likewise beſtow'd on ſuch whoſe Fathers had ſignaliz'd themſelves by great Exploits. In the Year 1448, *Constantine Dracoſes*, who had been *Despot* of the *Morea*, being rais'd to the Imperial Throne, divided this Realm between *Demetrius* and *Thomas*, his Brothers; the one had *Sparta*, and the other *Corinth*, which they loſt thro' their own Broils and Miſunderſtandings: For *Mahomet II.* the *Turkiſh* Sultan, thereby got an Opportunity to ſet Foot in their Country, where, under Pretext of aſſiſting *Demetrius* againſt his Brother *Thomas*, he ſeiz'd on the whole. *Thomas* took Sanctuary at *Rome*, whither he carry'd the Head of *St. Andrew* the Apoſtle, while his more credulous Brother follow'd the Sultan to *Constantinople*, and there miſerably loſt his Life.

All the bad Weather being intirely over, I re-imbark'd at *Modon* with the Reluctance you may imagine a Man to have, when he quits one of the fineſt and moſt plentiful Spots of Ground in the whole Univerſe; and after having felt ſome rude Blaſts of Wind in the Gulph of *Venice*, I happily arriv'd in  
this

this Port, where I had Permission granted me to make a *Quarantaine* of thirty Days only. These were no sooner compleated, but my first Care was to pay my Respects to the Grand Master *De Zondadari*, who is a Prince on whom one cannot bestow more Encomiums than he merits: He is look'd on, in his Principality, as the Father of the *Chevaliers*, and an indulgent Protector of his Subjects. The *French* Nation, tho' the most numerous in *Malta*, is, at present, that which makes only the best Figure after the *Portuguese*: *Don Antonio de Manoel*, the Baily of the Order, is in a Manner the Chief of all, and is very likely to become such in Effect, if he survives the Grand Master: Such an Election must needs redound very much to the Honour of those who have a Hand in it.

*Malta*, by the Ancients call'd *Melita*, is an Island in the *Mediterranean*: It lies about a hundred and fifty Miles from *Tunis*, and eighty from *Sicily*, which last, generally speaking, furnishes it with all the Provisions it consumes. The Length of the Island is ten Leagues, and its Breadth six, or thereabouts. Its Coasts are defended from an Enemy's Approach by divers Castles. The two chief Towns are the Old City, which is the Bishop's See, and the Capital, which is the Residence of the Grand Master, and all his *Chevaliers*. In this are comprehended, The City  
ty



ty itself, call'd *La Valatte* (bearing the Name of the Grand Master who built it) situated on Mount *Sceberas*; including the Prince's Palace, which is no regular Building; the *Arsenal*, well furnish'd and kept in good Order; the *Hospital*, which is worth seeing, and wherein all Sorts of indigent Persons are treated after the same Manner as the Knights themselves, when sick; the beautiful Church of St. *John*, whose Treasury is inestimable; and the Palaces, or *Hotels*, belonging to the different Nations, or Languages; which are sumptuous Edifices. This City is one of the strongest Places in the World, as well on Account of its Situation, as of the Goodness of its Fortifications. The Interposition of the Sea cuts it in three distinct *Peninsulas*, which are so many Cities, and appear like three very high Rocks in the Water, with Ports capacious enough to contain numerous Fleets. Fort St. *Elmo*, which defends the Grand Port, is no less regularly fortify'd than is the Castle of St. *Angelo*, whereof Sultan *Suliman* could not make himself Master, tho' he held it four Months closely besieg'd. Both publick and private Buildings are of Free-Stone; and the Roofs are all Platforms, after the *Moorish* Fashion, compos'd of a Cement which never lets in the Rain. On the Island are about fifty Towns, or Villages,

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very

very well peopled, and under the Princes, or Grand Master's Jurisdiction three small Islands, at no great Distance from *Malta*: Of these *Leghza*, whose Town is defended by a good Castle, is the principal; *Comina*, which has likewise a Castle of some Consideration, is the second; and *Farfara*, naturally fortified by its own Rocks, is the third. The Soil produces neither Wine nor Wheat; but there grow most delicious Melons, *China* Oranges, even better than in *Portugal*, and all the excellent Fruits which we meet with in the happiest *European* Climate: Cotton and Flax grow there in the greatest Abundance. In a Word, if *Malta* is not the most agreeable Place we can find in the whole World, yet its Capital may boast of being the only Part of the *Christian* World, where one meets with so considerable a Body of the very Choice of the most distinguish'd Nobility of *Europe*.

I have already spent here two Months, and the Time has been very far from seeming tedious: But as the best of Company that ever met must infallibly part some how or other, I shall depart from hence the first fair Day we have: I shall go for *Livorno* in a stout Merchant Ship, on which my Friends have sent on board Provisions for me, of every Kind, in Abundance. Make good Use of  
your

your own Stores; and, if you can possibly avoid it, never spend them but in the Company of choice Friends.



## LETTER XIV.

*Genoa, Nov. 28, 1721.*

THE smiling Weather intic'd me to quit *Malta*; and the Wind, which never ceas'd blowing favourably, in four Days convey'd me to *Cagliari*, the Metropolis of the Island of *Sardinia*; which City, tho' the ordinary Residence of the Vice-Roy and Majority of the Nobility, is neither sightly nor well-peopled. Its Situation is by the Sea-Side, on a small Eminence: The Air is far from being good, nor are the Country, or its Inhabitants, good for much. I was there, by a Priest, shew'd a Medal of one *Sardus*, said to be the Son of *Hercules*, who conducting into the Island a Colony of Adventurers, laid the Foundation of the *Sardinian* Monarchy, which bears the Name of its Founder. The Rivers *Cedro* and *Tirso* water this inconsiderable State, the Reputation whereof was so low, in the Time of the *Roman* Emperors, that they sent thither, in Exile, such



Prisoners of Distinction as they had a Desire to get rid of.

From *Cagliari* we touch'd at the Island of *Corfica*, where the Captain of our Vessel had some Affairs to settle. *Corfica* is not a Jot more noted for either its Commerce or Fecundity than is *Sardinia*. This State, likewise, looks on its original Foundation to have been owing to *Cyrnus*, another Son of *Hercules*; tho' some attribute that Honour to a certain *Ligurian* Widow, who courageously led thither a Colony of her Compatriots: What may most be depended on is, that the *Corfi* are look'd upon as the *Dæmons* of *Italy*. I was prevail'd with, by a *Capuchin* Fryar, to purchase a Couple of Medals, on the one of which was represented *Sylla*, and on the other *Marius*: They affirm, that the first built the City of *Aleria*, and that *Mariana* owes its Original to the second; they are now both in Ruins.

In eighteen Hours we pass'd from the Island of *Corfica* to *Livorno*; a Place famous rather for its very considerable Traffick than for its Antiquity. It is one of the prettiest Cities in the Grand Duke of *Tuscany's* Territories; and it is certainly that wherein is the greatest Concourse of foreign Merchants, drawn thither for the Advantage of the great Trade carried on there; and where many the more willingly settle, by reason that no  
Stranger

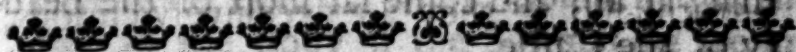
Stranger can be there arrested for Debt. The Town is well enough built, the principal Square not unbeautiful, and the Streets are much more remarkable for their Evenness than for the Goodness of their Payements. It has two Ports, a great and a lesser: The first has been made commodious by the Expence they have been at of building a fine Mole, or Peer, and several Towers; the other, the Entrance into which is very narrow, is fit only for Gallies, and the like. There is to be seen an admirable Statue of Duke *Ferdinand*, in Brass, at whose Feet are four *Moorish* Slaves in Chains. The little Island, wherein People perform *Quarantaine*, did not appear to me any wise agreeable 'till mine was over. It is very dear living at *Livorno*, notwithstanding which, it is the Part of all *Italy* which I would soonest chuse for my Abode: I am sure I would much rather live there than at *Pisa*, notwithstanding it is a City of far more Consideration, both for its Antiquity and the Beauty of its Buildings, which render it agreeable enough: The Grandeur and Magnificence of its stately Cathedral, with its sixty fine Marble Pillars; its precious brazen Gates, said (not that I believe it) to have belong'd to *Soloman's* Temple; its leaning Tower, of six or seven Stories high; the remarkable Burying Place, call'd *Il Campo Santo*; the Senatorian Palace;

the Town-House, and the Physick-Garden, notwithstanding they are excessively curious, could not prevent my soon growing very weary of being there. All the Conversation I had was with a certain Nobleman, to whom I was introduc'd by a Banker: This noble *Pisan* receiv'd me with all the Politeness of which the *Italians* are capable; and after he had shew'd me his Paintings, all the Entertainment he gave me was discoursing of the Exploits of the ancient *Pisans*, whose Posterity, even to a Man, are still extremely haughty, and very much value themselves upon the Honour acquir'd by their Ancestors in bringing *Carthage* under their Subjection.

I stay'd at *Pisa* but one Day; from whence I return'd to *Liborno*, in order to embark on a *Felucca*, which, in four Days, brought me into this Port, where I have perform'd a short, but very rigidly exact, *Quarantaine*, of which I got quit the Day before Yesterday. This Evening I am to sup with, and, at the same Time, to take my Leave of the Marquis *Di Mar*, a General Officer in the *Spanish* Service; and to-morrow I leave *Genoa*, in order to go for *Alexandria di la Paglia*, where I shall scarce have the Complaisance to stay till I am tir'd, as I have done at this Place.

LET.





## LETTER XV.

Turin, Dec. 15, 1721.

I Was detain'd, by the Marquis Di Cassini, two Days at *Alexandria di la Paglia*, which Town is situated on the Bank of the River *Tanaro*: It is considerably large, but poor, dismally melancholy, and ill-buile; the Hearts of the Inhabitants are intirely *Spanish*, hating a *Savoyard* Government. I pass'd by the uncheerful City of *Asti*, and never stop'd 'till I came to *Keri*, or *Cheri*, where I took up my Lodging. That is a small City, pretty enough, full of People of Fashion and Condition: The Families of *Balti*, *Broglia*, *Berton-Grillon*, and *Balbiano*, are originally from thence, and each of those Houses has its Chappel in the Collegiate Church. From *Cheri* I went to *Turin*, in a Post Chaise: All that Road is firm, commodious and pleasant. The Day after my Arrival in this Court, I had the Honour of being presented to *Madame-Royale*, by the Marchioness *De la Monta*, after which I went to see *La Veneria*, the Gardens whereof appear'd to me no less beautiful than well

look'd after: Those of *Rivoli* are as yet nothing at all, and come far short of the Beauty of the Castle.

*Turin*, which is the same with the *Augusta Taurinorum* of the Ancients, is, as you well know, the Capital of *Piemont*, and the ordinary Residence of the Dukes of *Savoy*. Those Princes made it the Station of the *Grand Chamber of Accounts*, and of the *Senate*, and, independent of its happy Situation, have render'd it one of the finest and strongest Cities of all *Italy*. It is double, an old and a new City, with good and very defensible Bastions and Out-Works. It stands eighteen Miles from the *Alpes*, in a Plain, on one Side whereof runs the *Po*, and on the other the *Doire*. The chief Magnificence of the Duke's Palace consists in the Richness of the Furniture; and Travellers much admire a fine Gallery full of curious Pictures and a very great Number of Statues. In this Metropolis I have view'd the Duke's vast and magnificent Garden; several rich Palaces; some lovely Streets; sumptuous Churches, of all which the Cathedral is the most considerable, both for its Architecture and its Treasury, which, among other Things of great Value, is enrich'd with a *Sun of Gold*, quite cover'd over with Diamonds, and a *Holy Handkerchief*: I am unfortunate in not being clear-sighted enough to be able possibly

possibly to perceive, as Multitudes of People have done, that the whole Countenance, and Part of the Body of the Son of God are imprinted on that precious Piece of Linnen. There are at *Turin* a learned University, a well-fill'd Academy, and every Thing that can render a City flourishing, besides the stately Palace which *Madame-Royale* is erecting, and which passes for the Master-piece of the *Italian* Architects. I take no Notice to you of the Citadel, since we know but too well that it is both large and regularly fortified. The Fields and Avenues of *Turin* are infinitely charming; the Country round it is beautified with a very great Number of Pleasure-Houses, which are separated from each other by fine, spacious Meadows, incessantly water'd by abundance of delightful little Rivulets. I take a Walk every Day to that of the Count *de la Riviere*, where I regularly dine with Mr. *Molesworth*, the *English* Envoy, in whose Company I became acquainted with the Marquis *De Trivier*, who passes for the most accomplish'd Nobleman in the whole Country: It may be, indeed, justly said of him, that he has not made a Figure, and acquir'd Reputation in the World, under false Colours; as likewise that the Character of Mr. *Molesworth*, who is the Delight of this whole Court, renders him esteem'd even by those who have not the Happiness to be of



of his Acquaintance. I reckon that within ten or twelve Days I shall be at *Geneva*, provided I make no stay at *Chambery*; which I intend to let you know by my next.



## LETTER XVI.

*Geneva, Jan. 15. 1722.*

FROM *Turin* I lay at *Susa*, a little City in *Piemont*, situated at the Foot of *Mount Cenis*, where, on a Triumphant Arch, I met with an Inscription, which sufficiently testifies, that it was in that Place that the famous Trophy to the Emperor *Augustus* was erected. Upon my Departure from *Susa*, I left to the Right Fort *La Brunette*, which his *Sardinian* Majesty is building with Abundance of Expence and Assiduity; and ascending *Cenis*, with no small Difficulty, it was not with much more Facility that I got down from thence, to enter into some tolerably fertile Vallies, and very rugged Roads, which lead to *Aigue-belle*, to *St. Peter de Moutier*, and to *St. John de Maurienne*, the Capital of the Province, or Valley of that Name: This is a very ancient County, or Earldom, and the original Patrimony of the Princes of the House

House of *Savoy*. This Valley, on one Side, extends from the *Alpes* to the River *Isère*, and from the *Tarentaise* as far as *Dauphiny* on the other: The City itself is of very small Consideration; but the least considerable Qualification belonging to its Bishop, Monsieur *Bassin de Valpergue*, is his being, both by Birth and Fortune, one of the most conspicuous *Grandeess* of *Savoy*: The only Inconveniency one meets with in this Journey is the Badness of the Roads. Continuing my Way by *Montmelian*, the Wines of whose Neighbourhood are held in Reputation, I pass'd close under the Ruins of its Castle, which give us plainly to understand, that, at this Day, it is very far from being an *impregnable Fortress*. From *Montmelian* I got to *Chambery*, where one finds the politest and the most distinguish'd Nobility in *Savoy*. Strangers are there lov'd, esteem'd, and regal'd by them in their Turns; and a Gentleman may pass his Time there, full as well as he can in the greatest Cities. This Town, ill-built and without any considerable Trade, stands on the Bank of the *Orbanne*, in a Plain of very small Extent, and surrounded with Hillocks: It is still the Capital of the Dutchy of *Savoy*, notwithstanding for a long Time it has not been the Seat of its Princes. The Ladies, as well as the Cavaliers, are of a very polite and affable Conversation, and have no more

Aversion

'Aversion to Play than they have to good Cheer. Among the good Houses of the Country, those of *Laval-Disere*, *Seyssel*, *Chabot*, *Blonai*, *Montfalcon*, and the true *Asper-tini*, are none of the least ancient. From *Chambery*, passing by the little City *Rumilli*, I arriv'd at *Geneva*, having gone thro' Roads which at this Season of the Year are frequently in a Manner impracticable.

*Geneva* is a City of the ancient *Allobroges*, on the Frontier of *Savoy*, situated on the River *Rhine*, at the Extremity of the Lake *Leman*: It is govern'd in Form of a Republick; and one no where meets with a better or more prudent Government. The City is really fine, and according to all Appearances, will, in short Time, be perfectly well fortified: Its Situation is admirable. Part of it is built on a rising Ground, and the rest is in the Plain, which has the Lake on its North: The *Rhône*, which gently issues out of this Lake, embraces the City on one Side, separating it from the agreeable Quarter of it, call'd *St. Gervais*, to which we pass over a large Timber Bridge. At the Extremity of the City this River receives the Waters of the *Arva*, which is another Rampart that *Geneva* has, on the South. This City has a well-furnish'd Arsenal; a Town-House, the Stair-Case whereof is remarkably singular; some not unhandsom Streets; and most spacious



cious Walks, as well by the Side of the Lake, as under shady Arbours, or Grottos, and in the open Fields. This is a City of great Trade, very rich, and exceeding populous; and if, perhaps, one may meet with some finer to the Eye, I defy all Mankind to shew me one better regulated: None is there idle; every one being employ'd either in discharging the Obligation of his Office, or in advancing Trade. There are few of the Citizens but what follow Merchandize; But the principal and most ancient Families, both of foreign Extract and originally of the Country, carry on their Commerce in so easy and so honourable a Manner, that Persons of the most illustrious Blood might traffick as they do without the least Apprehension of derogating from their Honour. Among the foreign Families, which it is likely the Reformation brought thither, the *Micheli*, the *Turtini*, the *Livrons*, the *Budées*, the *Bourlamaqui*, the *Cambiagni*, the *Calandrini*, and the *Pelisari* are not reckon'd to be the least considerable: I make not any Mention either of the *Pictets*, or of several other original Patrician Families, whose Worth is as well known Abroad, as is the Merit and Reputation of Monsieur Brigadier *Greneu*. I thought myself extremely oblig'd to a certain *Piemontese* Nobleman for bringing me acquainted with Monsieur *De Tournes*, who has  
help'd

help'd me to the Acquaintance of several very worthy Persons: As for his *Most Christian Majesty's* Resident here, I think the only Fault he has is his being over-generous, and too much a Man of Honour. I was excessively glad of the Opportunity of visiting Monsieur *Alphonso Turrein*: He is the *Bossuet* of *Geneva*, the Duties and Honours of which Employ he most politely discharges with all the Temper of a *Christian Philosopher*: His Cabinet of Medals is very well stor'd; and there are among the rest a good Number which, as well as divers Inscriptions, demonstratively prove that this City must certainly have been very considerable in the *Roman Times*. I am now just upon my Departure for the *Pais de Vaux*, which, I am told, is well worth visiting: As soon as I am capable of giving any Account of it, you shall know whether it is or not.

LET.

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## LETTER XVII.

*Lauzane, April 12, 1722.*

**L**eaving Geneva I enter'd the *Pais de Vaux*, by the Town of *Coper*, the Situation whereof cannot possibly be otherwise than pleasant, since it stands on the Bank of the Lake. *Coper* is a Barony, at present appertaining to Monsieur *Oguerre*, who mightily adorns the fine Habitation he dwells in, which, by Report, is very commodious and politely furnish'd. From *Coper* I went to pass the Night at *Nyon*, a small City, call'd by the Ancients *Benevis*, and which, according to their Chronicles, was rebuilt by *Nyon*, a Centurion, whose Name it still preserves. It stands upon an Eminence, at the Foot whereof is the lower Town, near which we meet with a Tower which seems to be of very great Antiquity: By viewing the Outside of this City one may readily judge that it has formerly been much more considerable than it is at present. I pass'd by the pretty Town of *Rolle*, the Barony whereof once belong'd to *Gaston de Foix*, Count of *Longueville*, who sold it to pay the Ransom of his



his only Son. From thence I went to dine at *Aubonne*, another pleasant Town, situated near a very spacious and beautiful Vineyard, about half a League from the Lake. The imprudent Conduct of one of Monsieur *Tavernier*'s Nephews was the Occasion that his Heirs could not keep Possession of this Barony. I went to *Morge*, a little City, in which the *Bailly* makes his Residence: It stands by the Side of the Lake, where it has a small Port, which renders it a Place of tolerable good Trade; its chief Street is handsom enough, nor are the Buildings contemptible: It would be full as much to the Publick Advantage if the Houses were worse built, provided their Inhabitants were more united among themselves. I still continued coasting along the Lake Side, all which is embroider'd with an infinite Number of delightful Knots of Hillocks, as well distributed as they are elegantly manur'd: Nor can one easily meet with, any where, so charming a Perspective, as that which the Eye enjoys from every Side of those beautiful little Risings, and the smiling, and perfectly well cultivated, Fields which are about them.

In order to visit *Lauzane*, the Metropolis of the *Pais de Vaux*, I struck off a few Furlongs from the Banks of the Lake. This Town is built, a Quarter of a League from Lake *Leman*, upon three Eminences,

nences, which are not easy, since one can scarce go through any Street without ascending or descending. It is believ'd, that the City of *Lauzane* owes its Original to the ancient *Arpetras*, the Foundations whereof are to be seen near the Lake towards *Vidi*: Adding, that a certain Person, nam'd *Arpentinus*, an Officer who commanded a hundred Men, under *Hercules*, founded it, whose Name it bore, and which it never lost 'till it came to be remov'd to the Eminence whereon it stands at present. Be that as it will, there is no Room to call in Question its Antiquity; yet, still, without any ones being so well able to prove that the Emperor *Aurelian* was so great a Benefactor to it as he is reported to have been, as they may the particular Privileges and Immunities granted it by the Emperor *Sigismund*. Some of its Bishops have been Persons of extraordinary Merit, in which Number they do not reckon the last they had, who was of the *Montfalcon* Family of *Savoy*. The Street *De Bourg* is held to be the ancientest of the whole City, as it is the first we come into: It is built on one of the three Risings, and partly inhabited by a good Number of People of Fashion, to every one of whose Habitations are adjoining fine Gardens, with pleasant Terrass-Walks, from whence they most agreeably enjoy the beautiful Prospect of the Lake. In the high-

est Part of the City, one meets with some considerable Structures, and among several others, the Cathedral Church, built by two Kings of *Burgundy*; that is to say, the Son finish'd what had been undertaken by the Father. *William D'Echaland*, one of its Prelates, was the Founder of the Castle, whose Walls are ten Foot in Thickness: It is of a quadrangular Form, intirely of Free-Stone, except the Upper-works, which are of Brick. This Castle, formerly the Palace of the Bishops of *Lauzane*, is now the Residence of the *Baily*: It is an Edifice well worth visiting, especially when the Person who resides therein executes his Charge with Honour. *Messieur De Crouzat*, and *De Polier*, in the best Manner they are able, support the Credit of the Academy, of which they are the Loadstone, the very Soul; nor know I of any, except their Rivals in Learning and Knowledge, or such as are not perfectly well inform'd of the Measures taken to induce them to sign the *Consensus*, who can tax them with having made one false Step. Duke *Schemberg*, who lost his Life at the Battle of *Marsaille*, lies interr'd, too meanly, in the Cathedral of *Lauzane*, as does, likewise, the famous Chevalier *De Grandson*, whose *Mausoleum* could never have much impoverish'd his Heirs.

This



This City is not fortified ; neither would it be to any Purpose to be at that Expence, on Account of the Eminences which command it ; but its Union with the Canton of *Bearn*, to which it voluntarily submitted, is a far better Defence to it than the strongest Ramparts could possibly be. In few Cities of the Province one finds better Company than in this, where are a good Number of noble Families, who, by well-concerted Inter-Marriages, frequently renew the ancient Alliances contracted among them. These Houses all maintain their Dignity in a very honourable Manner. One makes at *Lauzane* very good Cheer of every Kind, both Flesh and Fish ; and honest, old *Grand*, at the *Golden-Lion*, furnishes his Guests with such delicious Wines as are capable of making them forget *Le Mulceau* and *Le Tonnère*. In this City are abundance of *French* Refugees, of all Professions, of whom the poorer Sort for a long Time subsisted purely on Alms ; but the Majority of them have at present Business enough to afford themselves a comfortable Livelihood by working at their Trades : Such as are still in Necessity, find certain Relief, either through the Means and Credit of Monsieur *De Monroux*, a good-natur'd, well-dispos'd Gentleman of *Vivarez*, or from the Humanity of the Directors of the Hospiral,

who never suffer to want Bread not only the Poor of their own Town, but generously succour all Comers and Goers who really stand in need of their Charity.

Round about the Neighbourhood of this City, I have seen very pretty and neat Country-Houses, where one is perfectly well receiv'd and entertain'd. The Castle *Vellerans* is an elegant Piece of Architecture: That of *L'Isle* is kept in better Condition, is much more neatly furnish'd, and has Gardens and Water which make some Amends for its indifferent Situation. I am making ready to take a View of the *Pais de Valais* before I enter the Heart of *Swisserland*, which, hitherto, I find very much to my Taste; but I am told, that all its Towns are not like this, from whence I now write: It shall not be long before I acquaint you with the Difference I meet with.

LET-



## LETTER XVIII.

*Lauzane, May 10, 1722.*

**C**Oasting along the Lake of Geneva, I got to *Vevai*; but throughout the whole Journey I was forc'd to travel in very narrow and most rugged Roads, at the Foot of a prodigiously large Vine-yard, which begins at a little Distance from *Lauzane*, and ends not till one arrives at the very Gates of *Vevai*. Before I reach'd that Place, I pass'd through *Lutri*, where the People were diverting themselves during the Vintage-Time. This Town is built, by the Lake-Side, near a ruinous Tower, which a Bishop of *Lauzane* caus'd to be erected there, in the Days of *Ferdinand II.* I continued my Way, from *Lutri*, by the pretty City of *Culli*, which bears for its Coat of Arms a Bunch of Grapes, half *white* half *red*. The City of *Vevai* is the best Town of all that *Baillage*, situated long-ways by the Side of the Lake, and not ill-built: Nay, I even met with some tolerably fine Houses; one may pass one's Time there pleasantly enough, and very reasonably; and those of the Inhabitants who



are any-wise polish'd, are extremely courteous and hospitable enough. At *St. Martin's Church* I heard *Mr. Perré* preach a Sermon, which Minister of theirs has a Capacity very sufficient to give Satisfaction to a much more numerous and difficult Audience. This City, as well as many others, has undergone its Calamities, and has not so well preserv'd its ancient Edifices, as it has the Franchises granted it, near four hundred Years since, by *Ameus*, Count of *Savoy*. I took a Walk towards its neighbouring Mountains, where I had a View of the Castle *Blonai*, belonging to a Gentleman of that Name: The Barons *De Blonai*, and the Seigneurs *De Gingin*, even if they were not descended from a younger Branch of the House of *Savoy*, may however pass, in every Corner of the Universe, for Persons of the first Quality. The *Swiss* Nobility has not been so intirely extirpated, but that each Canton still can shew some Spark of it: It is my Opinion, however, that the *Pais de Vaux* can produce yet a greater Number than any of them, and that exclusive of the good Families which are originally from *France*, and which are certainly far from being modern Upstarts: It is some Centuries that the Proofs that the Houses of *Saconai*, *Gbandieu*, and *Lauriol* are quite the Reverse, have been in Reputation in the Chapters of *Lyons* and *St. Claude*.

From

From *Vevai* I pass'd by the Castle of *Chillon*, the Residence of the *Bailly*, who was then absent. This Castle, built, near five hundred Years ago, by *Peter of Savoy*, stands on certain Rocks in the Lake, and is encompass'd with very thick Walls and strong Towers. I thence proceeded to the *New City*, at the Extremity of the Lake of *Geneva*, which is the same with that of *Lauzane*. It is an ill-contriv'd, melancholy Town: They tell us, that its Hospital, where all necessitous Passengers are very charitably receiv'd, was built by *Ameus V.* who died there of a Leprosy; but this *Epocha* does not in the least agree with the *Savoyard Chronicle*.

From the *New City*, passing by *Roche*, where a great Quantity of Salt is made, I went to pass the Night at *Bex*, from whence I took a Trip to *Old Bex* to visit the Sources of those Waters, which have been discover'd in a certain Branch of the *Alpes*, near the Village of *Arevage*: I at first imagin'd those Springs to have been a-like in Taste to the Sea Water, but it is altogether as fresh as that we drink of, and does not become salt 'till after having pass'd over Veins of that Mineral, whereof the Water instantly takes the acrimonious Savour, and entering, at the same Time, into certain Pipes, kept in exceeding good Order, it runs into Reservoirs, which emit it into Cauldrons, where,

when it has taken a certain Degree of Heat, it is converted into Salt, as white, and every Jot as good, as any that can be made in Salt-Pans of the most ancient Standing. I descended by four hundred and fifty two Steps, cut out in the Rock, where I met with several Veins of Sulphur, which communicate their Savour to the Water which passes by them. Great Care is taken to prevent those sulphureous Waters from mixing with the other good ones. I am abundantly satisfied at my having visited the Bowels of that Mountain, from whence I came not out 'till I had travers'd a strait Gallery, of five hundred Fathoms in Length; nor can one get out of that wonderful subterraneous Passage only by one Place, which is directly opposite to that Mouth by which I enter'd, conducted by Torch-light. I am thoroughly persuaded, that in these Ages we meet not with any modern Work which does so much Honour to its Undertakers as does this prodigious Performance to those who first set on Foot so useful and advantageous an Enterprize. The Canton of *Bearn* is carrying on a very considerable Work of the same Nature, in another Mountain, where they have already cut a Gallery into the Rock, which terminates in Mines of Sulphur, the Colour whereof inclines somewhat to Sea-green.



I re-enter'd the *Valais* Road ; and, having visited the Abby of *St. Maurice*, which is in none of the best Hands, I fell into a very fine Highway, which does not begin 'till we come at the Foot of a Mountain, belonging to the *Alpes*, where the Fall of the Waters forms the most beautiful Cascade I ever beheld : We go almost all the Way between the *Rhône* and the *Alpes*, from whence spring a great Number of Rivulets, which precipitate their Streams into that River : I have not seen a Bit of barren useless Ground in all the *Pais de Valais* ; every Foot of it is cultivated, even to the very Tops of the Mountains, which I am told are exceedingly fertile and very well peopled. *Sion*, the Capital of the Province, is the wildest and most disagreeable Place you can possibly imagine ; nevertheless one might there make tolerable Cheer with a good Cook, with which it is not unnecessary to go provided, if one would eat any thing *Christian* like. Strangers are very much exacted on in this Country ; but the Inhabitants live very cheap : The Bread they make at *Sion* is excellently good ; in their Gardens grow the best Fruits of every Sort ; and one drinks Wines far preferable to the Natives of the Canton, who have all the ill Qualities of the *Italians*. I fancy that it is their Form of Government, and the Methods us'd in obtaining Charges that continually

nually keep alive Cabals among them, and, renewing at the same Time their Jealousy, perpetuate their domestick Feuds and Divisions. The Populace bear to the Nobility a most inveterate Hatred: Scarce any other noble Families, except the younger Branch of the House of *Vera*, are left remaining: The Descendants of that of *Tavelli*, once so very considerable, both in the *Upper* and *Lower Valais*, being acknowledg'd by all the Antiquaries of the *Pais de Vaux*, would any one believe it, that because they are somewhat richer than a great many others, and because those of the House of *Vervai* have both their Habitations and Purles open to all who approach them, would you believe it, I say, that, for these Reasons alone, some Folks have taken it into their Heads to dispute with them the Purity of so undoubted an Original? I have been to take a View of the Sources of divers Rivers; and making all possible Haste back to *Sion*, I am return'd to *Lauzane*, by the same Way I took to go to the *Pais de Valais*. I am now going to make myself some Amends in the *Pais de Vaux*, for the bad Inns I met with in the Province which I lately quitted.



## LETTER XIX.

*Lucerne, June 20, 1722.*

**A**T *Lauzane* I again found the same Diverſion and good Company I had left behind me at my Departure: But the Joy and Satisfaction I conceiv'd at finding myſelf once more in that agreeable Place were quite blaſted by unluckily meeting there the Duke of *Phalaris*; which Nobleman, in order to excite the Compaſſion of the Publick, feign'd himſelf cruelly oppreſs'd and injur'd by a certain great and generous Prince, againſt whom he had raſhly broach'd the blackeſt of Calumnies. I went to viſit the *Baillage* of *Romersmoutier*, where the *Baily* *Monſieur Villadin* lives at the Rate of a General Officer who is ambitious of doing Honour to his Sovereign. *Romersmoutier* is a very indifferent Place, ſituated in a Valley no wiſe diſagreeable: It is a conſiderable *Baillage*, ſtretching all along by Mount *Jura*, as far as the Frontier of *Burgundy*. I enter'd its Temple, which was anciently the Church belonging to the Monastery which  
*Rodolphus*



*Rodolphus II.* King of *Burgundy* is recorded to have founded in Favour of an Abbot of *Clugni*: The only Monument to be seen in the Chancel, is that of a certain Prior, of the honourable House of *Seiffel*.

Returning from *Romersmoutier*, we again call'd upon *Messieurs De Gingin*, among which worthy Gentlemen the sole Complaint to be made is their entertaining those who visit them too well; neither did we fare indifferently at *Severi* and *Pampigni*, from whence I was conducted to *Etoi*, which is a fine Country-Seat, belonging to a Gentleman of a worthy Family, and a fair Reputation; His Children are related to you by their Grand-mother, which Lady is the last of a Branch of the House of *Argennes*.

Having stay'd a few Days longer at *Lauzane*, I set out for the Canton of *Bearn*, in which Road we meet with the small City of *Moudon*, rather ancient than considerable: It seems to have been re-built either by one of the *Burgundian* Kings, or by a Duke of *Zeringen*; and it is one of the four good Towns in the *Pais de Vaux*, in spite of its melancholy Situation, and the little Trade it has: The *Bailly* resides in the Castle of *Lucens*, built on a small Eminence agreeable enough; it is said to have been the Residence of the Governors there establish'd by the  
Dukes

Dukes of Savoy, when those Princes were possess'd of the greatest Part of the *Pais de Vaux*.

From Moudon I got, in one Day, to *Bearn*, Capital of the Canton which bears that Name: This City is not of any great Antiquity; but it is very large, well built, and extremely populous. *Bertholdus IV.* Duke of *Zeringen*, is taken to be its Founder; but his Son is said not to have been much its Benefactor. Be that as it will, the City is rich and well situated. There are in it three great Streets, the Mansions whereof, being of Free-Stone, are almost all on Arches, with very commodious Galleries under which one may walk dry in spite of the most rainy Season of the Year. *Bearn* stands on a Platform, in a Sort of a *Peninsula*, form'd by the River *Aâr*, which washes the City in three different Places: The fourth Angle is cover'd by four Bastions, lin'd with broad and well-kept Ditches which very seldom want Water. This Canton is exceeding powerful, and is govern'd by such as make few false Steps. Besides the six honourable and potent Houses of the Canton, and of all which that of *Erlac*, descended from a Count of *Neufchatel*, is the most conspicuous, there are several other noble and ancient Families, which have been honour'd with the Dignity of bearing the important

portant Charge of *Avoyer*. The People of *Bearn* have naturally a good Share of Sense and Judgment, and at present they have the Reputation not to want Politeness: But their sullen, precise and disdainful Air seldom attracts the Hearts of those who are not well acquainted with them.

I left *Bearn*, in order to visit *Friburgh*, the Capital of one of the *Catholick* Cantons. The City is built upon the River *Sana*, situated partly on the Declension of an indifferently high Hill, and the Remainder in a Valley surrounded by little Eminencies; and this Part of the Town is join'd to the rest by three Bridges, which are frequently borne away by the Impetuosity of that River's Current. These distinct Parts together form a most irregular City, in which nevertheless one meets with some good Houses, two or three spacious Squares, and several Convents, the Gardens whereof are extremely pleasant in the Spring of the Year. The People of this Canton are not rich; but, to make some Amends for that Defect, they are good-natur'd, affable, and tolerably pacifick. Their City, built in 1179, has had its Revolutions, and Changes of Masters, as well as many others. I visited the Hermitage, establish'd, some Years since, by a well-dispos'd pious Anchoret, who drown'd himself after he had hew'd out of the Rock that solitary Retreat which



which both Natives and Strangers go to see out of Curiosity. In this Canton are several Rivers very plentiful of Fish: The Soil is fruitful, and produces enough of every Necessary excepting Wine, with which the Inhabitants supply themselves from *Burgundy*, or the *Pais de Vaux*.

I quitted *Friburgh* to take a Turn in the Territory of *Avanche*, which is rather rich in the Bounty of its Soil than considerable for the Largeness of its Extent. *Avanche*, term'd by *Tacitus* the Metropolis of all *Switzerland*, stands on the Lake *Morat*: Its Ruins, as well as the Chronicles of that Country, sufficiently give us to understand, that it was formerly a large Place: It is now wholly oblig'd to its smiling Situation that it is not a very melancholy Abode. One of its honest Inhabitants shew'd me a Medal, on which is the Representation of a Woman, pretended to be that of one *Aventica*, Mistress to King *Helveticus*, from whom the Name of these Cantons, *Helvetia*, is deriv'd: The same Person added, That this Prince built a City, at the Intercession of his Mistress, who caus'd it to be call'd after her own Name. What is to be depended on in this Matter, is, that this City has never borne any other Name, since its Foundation, but that of *Aventicum* in *Latin*, and that of *Avanche* in the Language of the Country.

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I went from *Arvanche* to *Morat*, a small City, exceeding pleasantly situated on its own Lake, which partly forms the River *Muraine*. This City is celebrated by the Defeat of *Charles the Rash*, Duke of *Burgundy*, over whom the *Swiss* obtain'd a most compleat Victory, fatal to the *Burgundians*, the Bones of those of that Nation who fell in the Battle being heap'd up in a Chappel, which stands by the Lake Side: A great Number of those Bones are still to be seen, together with an Inscription in *Latin*, which serves for a Monument of the Victory gain'd by the *Helvetick* Forces over so warlike a Prince, and one who look'd on himself as invincible.

From *Morat* I pass'd on to *Payerne*, thro' several fine Plains and by some beautiful Rivings, agreeably mix'd. *Payerne*, wash'd by the River *Broye*, is one of those Cities concerning which little or no Mention is ever made. From thence I turn'd off to *Neufchatel*, the Capital Town of a Country which is shut up within the Bosom of *Swisserland*. The City stands at the Foot of Mount *Jura*, between its own Lake and the neighbouring Mountains, by which it is very closely confin'd. The Lake abundantly supplies it with excellent Trouts, and other good Fish. I have seen a great many Cities, whose very Gardens are not so neatly kept as are the  
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the Vine-yards of *Neuchatel*, out of which I have drank some most delicious Wines at the Habitation of *Monsieur de Froment*, who, with a free and generous Heart, does Honour to his Charge as Governor. In this City one may live extremely well, and that at a reasonable Rate; nay, one may find very honest and sociable People to converse with, but many more who ought to be avoided: Amongst others there is a most consummate Hypocrite, and two or three scurvy Tax-Gatherers, who have several Occupations besides that which they profess: One gains more than can easily be imagin'd in never having the least Intercourse with such Sort of Chaps. It ought not to surprize one that *Neuchatel* is built after a Manner somewhat grotesque, its Situation being so odd, and singular as it is. There are, nevertheless a considerable Number of good Houses; and the Inhabitants make frequent Assemblies, yet still without having ever the more real Friendship for each other. The Reverend Mr. *Osterwald* instructs, very regularly, his Congregation by good and edifying Sermons, and by his Deeds gives them a true Idea of his Principles: This worthy Pastor beholds himself likely to live after his Death in his promising Offspring, who are far from dishonouring their Family. I have made a Visit to the City and Castle of *Valangin*, much less

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less worth seeing than are their Dependancies: I was quite charm'd with the Sight of five Vallies, at the Foot of Mount *Jura*, and some Habitations which I met with on the Mountains.

From *Neuchatel* I went to *Yverdun*, having before I reach'd thither tir'd myself with viewing the Caste of *Grandson*, which I had not been at the Pains of visiting were it not that I had a Desire to examine its Plain, wherein the above-mention'd Duke of *Burgundy* was again defeated, which Prince's Fortune against the *Swiss* was always very indifferent. *Yverdun* is pleasantly enough situated, and tolerably well built, at the Head of the same Lake by which stands *Neuchatel*, from which Lake it reaps many Advantages: Its Inhabitants are a very sociable and good Sort of People. The City of *Orbe*, by which runs a River of the same Name, is very advantageously situated on a rising Ground: There is to be seen the Foundation of a Castle wherein Queen *Theudelinda*, Sister to *Theodoric*, King of *Burgundy*, is said to have resided.

From this small City, in which one finds Liberty, good Company, and abundance of Wild-Fowl, &c. I repass'd by *Yverdun*, in order to have the Conveniency of returning to *Neuchatel* cross the Lake, in which last Place I stay'd but two Days, and in that Interval

val I was at the taking of a prodigious Number of fugitive Frouts, who quit the Lake to betake themselves to the River *Reuse*, where, with an incredible Dexterity, the Peasants strike them with Javelins, or Fizzigs.

Taking Leave of *Neuchâtel*, in order to visit *Zurich*, I had in my Passage a Sight of the little City of *Bienné*, situated on its own Lake, which abounds with Fish. The River *Tchus*, having first water'd the delightful Fields in the Town's Neighbourhood, glides as it were insensibly into this Lake. Few Towns in *Switzerland* enjoy the Freedom as does *Bienné*, whose Temporal Affairs are under the Regulation of the Bishop of *Basle*, who has his Residence at *Polantren*. I went from *Bienné* to dine at *Soleure*, a regularly fortified Place: The City is well enough built; and its Outworks are no less agreeable to the Eye than are a good Number of beautiful Houses round about the Neighbourhood of the City: In it are two or three distinguishable Families, among whom one may pass the Time with all imaginable Satisfaction.

From *Soleure* I took up my Night's Quarters in the pretty City of *Aarow*, built on the Bank of the River *Aar*, from whence it derives its Name. The Soil is fertile, and well cultivated. This City, which seems to

have been built by the *Vandals*, enjoys great Immunities; and the Counts of *Hasburg*, and several Dukes of *Austria*, have thought it worthy their ordinary Residence. *Baden* is also a very fine Place; the City being one of the best built Towns in *Swisserland*, and is the Capital of a County, or Earldom of that Name; which Appellation it takes from its Baths, the Excellence whereof is highly extoll'd by the Inhabitants. This small Sovereignty belong'd to the House of *Hasburg*, at the Time when the *Swiss* made themselves Masters of it; In this City it is that all the Members, or Deputies of the *Swiss* Cantons meet to consult of General Matters; and thither foreign Embassadors never fail to resort. In and about it have been discover'd many Medals, and an Inscription of the Emperor *Trajan*, which are not neglected by the Curious. The Baths which render it so famous, are below the City, in a well-built Village, in the Midst whereof is a handsom Square, encompass'd with very good Publick-Houses, for that Part of the World, in every one of which is a Bath for the Accommodation of their respective Lodgers: There are upwards of thirty Baths, as well private as publick, exclusive of those on the other Side of the River, where are the Houses to which the Country-People resort to bathe themselves. The Waters appear'd to me very sulphureous,



reous, with a small Tincture of Allom. This City chuses its own Magistrates, and is govern'd by Laws independent of the Bailly there settled by the eight Cantons to which it is subject: The River *Limagus*, navigable for Boats, waters both the Town and its Territory.

By Roads extremely broken, and very much differing from each other, I got to *Zurich*. This is the Capital of the first *Swiss* Canton; and is situated on a very fishy Lake. Its Antiquity is so well known, that it has not the least Necessity to seek for the Founder in the Person of a certain *Turricus*, one who, perhaps, never existed. *Cæsar*, in his *Commentaries*, makes Mention of this City frequently enough to induce one to judge that in his Days it was no inconsiderable Place. Its Situation is good, and the Buildings tightly: Its Citizens are rich, great Traders, hospitable and charitable enough, and very firm in their Resolutions: Their ordinary Walk is upon two beautiful wooden Bridges, laid a-cross the River *Limagus*, which divides into two Parts this City, which still can shew a good Share of the Liberality of King *Glovis III.* and the Emperor *Charlemagne*. We there meet with very honest People; but it is very dear Living, bating which *Zurich* is no wise disagreeable, I

could, however, like staying here at *Lucerne* better than there.

This City, which is thought to derive its Name from a Lantern, wont to be lighted on the Top of a Tower, to direct the Boats which went and came by Night over the Lake on the Bank whereof it stands situate. It is the Metropolis, or Capital of the first of the *Catholick* Cantons, and the ordinary Residence of the Pope's *Nuncio*. The River *Ruse*, which divides it in two Parts, almost like *Zurich*, likewise furnishes it with a Walking-Place, pleasant enough, by the Convenience it affords of taking the Air upon the wooden Bridge laid over it, which is of a very considerable Length and Breadth. The Inhabitants of *Lucerne*, who are no Haters of Strangers, are very industrious, and great Traders, and they are much more oblig'd to their Lake, which yields them many Advantages, than they are to their dry and barren Soil: However Living is not there exorbitantly dear; and I met with, both among the Nobility, Gentry and Citizens, People much at their Ease, and very sociable and communicative. The Form of their Government comes somewhat near that of *Bearn*; Justice being administer'd in those two Cantons very much alike. I am soon to leave this Place, with a *Milanese* Gentleman, of some Distinction,

Distinction, whom I shall accompany to the Frontier of his own Country: I wish you may ever enjoy Pleasure and Tranquillity in yours.



## LETTER XX.

*Basil, Sept. 20, 1722.*

**I** Was so well pleas'd with the City of *Lucerne*, that I had an Inclination to visit the greatest Part of its Territory. There I met with two small Lakes, wherein are found a Sort of Cray-Fish, of a blueish black Colour, which never turn red when boil'd, and whereof they make excellent Soup, and good Ragoûts. In my Rambles, I visited the ancient Castle of *Hasburg*, which you must not, however, confound with that which gave Birth to the Founders of the House of *Austria*. After that I went to see the Villages of *Meggen*, *Lutzelau*, and *Demmen*, each of which has its Bath of Mineral Water, participating of Copper, Sulphur and Allom. From these Baths, whose Reputation yearly draws to them a great Number of ailing Persons, I clamber'd up to the Top of the celebrated Mountain *Pilate*, con-



cerning which, many unaccountable Stories have been told, which were formerly given out for undoubted Truths: But all those fine Histories at present pass for no other than downright Fable; and the People peaceably enjoy, from the Summit thereof, a most delightful Prospect: Nor do I ever remember to have met with a finer, or more curious one; since, besides a very great Number of Villages and Towns, one may discover from the Point of that Mountain twelve or thirteen Lakes, and five or six Rivers.

*Wilisaw* and *Rotheburg*, are two pretty Cities, formerly appertaining to two Counts of different Houses, but of an equally illustrious Birth: How pure soever their Original might have been, many potent Sovereigns had much rather search for theirs in lost, remote Sources, than find it very good, and indisputably clear, in the Neighbourhood of their own States. I was not by any Means able to discover, in the Rivulet of *Goldbac*, (which issues out of a neighbouring Mountain in order to water the rich and spacious Valley of *Lentihouch*) one single Particle of those Bits and Sands of Gold which several curious Searchers, more fortunate than myself, affirm to have gather'd up in that Place.

The little City *Sempac* would be at this Day of very small Consideration, were it not for the memorable Victory gain'd by the

*Swiss*

*Swiss* over the Army of an *Austrian* Duke, who there lost his Life, together with an exceeding great Number of Nobility and distinguished Gentry; part of whose Names and Arms are still to be seen in a Church which was erected a little beneath the City, in the very Field of Battle, and on the individual Spot of Ground where that Prince's Body lay. This City, notwithstanding it is very far from being beautiful, enjoys great Privileges: The Jurisdiction of its *Avoyer*, who is the chief Person there, extends no farther than does the Lake, which is form'd in that Place by the River *Sar*. The great Abbey, *St. Urbans*, belonging to the *Cistercians*, is exceeding rich and powerful; but the Community is compos'd in a manner like all the others that are to be met withal in *Swisserland*.

I transiently pass'd through the poor City *Gerseau*, built at the Extremity of the Lake of *Lucerne*. From this Place *Altdorf*, the Capital of the Canton of *Uri*, is extremely different: It is considerably large, and advantageously situated on the Bank of its own Lake, in a Plain, at the Foot of a Chain of very high Mountains: It has several Churches, and some religious Communities, the Architecture whereof is less curious to be view'd than are the Ruins of a Fortrefs erected there by the Emperor *Albert*, to keep in Awe the

the Inhabitants, who within these forty Years have there establish'd a Company for the cutting and polishing Crystal.

I took from *Aldorf* the Road to *Italy*; and having travers'd a Plain of three Leagues over, in which stands the Village of *Sillinen*, where are some Quarries of black Marble with white Veins, I got to the Foot of Mount *St. Gotthard*, near which I went to visit a fine Vitriol Mine: With great Pains and Pleasure I ascended that Mountain. The Way, which is an important Pass into *Italy*, is extremely rugged in Summer, and not a little dangerous in Winter; but in the pleasant Season of the Spring it is inexpressibly amusing, since one every now and then finds one's self in an agreeable Forest, from whence we pass under most frightful Rocks, the which, suspended in the Air and covering the Road, continually threaten to crush to Pieces all who pass under their Shadow; while at the same Instant, several Torrents, which fall from the Mountains, and precipitate themselves into the Rivers issuing from the same Mountains, form certain Cascades and *Iris's*, which make a Traveller forget the Danger he has escaped. Never enough can be said of the Perseverance and Agility of the Inhabitants of those Mountains, who take inconceivable Pains in continually keeping the Roads open, at a prodigious Expence, both



both Winter and Summer ; and who joining together uncouth craggy Cliffs, with arch'd Bridges, hew through the hardest Rocks, in some Places, to make a Passage ; and when a Road so made appears to be in Danger of sinking, they support it with good substantial Walls, or Props, form'd of mighty Pieces of whole Timber, fasten'd together with strong Braces of Iron. On the Summit of Mount *St. Gothard* stands a Convent of *Capuchins*, from whence are discover'd four Bishopricks, contiguous to each other ; viz. *Milan, Novare, Coire and Sion* ; nor do all the Prospects I ever saw, either from Mount *Lebanon*, or other Mountains, come near this. From the same *Capuchin* Monastery I likewise had a Sight of several clear and transparent Lakes, from whence flow the River *Tessin*, which passes into *Italy*, and the *Rus*, which descends into *Switzerland* ; both these are affirm'd to have their Sources in those Lakes.

Coming down from *St. Gothard*, I enter'd a Bottom call'd the *Trembling Valley*, where one passes over a Spot which is a Sort of Bridge compos'd of Ice, or rather of frozen Snow, under which, with no small Rapidity, runs a noisy River : This unaccountable Passage appear'd to me very little satisfactory to Lovers of Curiosities. In these Mountains is often found good Store of Crystal, and Stones

Stones of several different Colours; and near *Ayrola* there is a Fountain of mineral Waters, partaking of Nitre and Vitriol. I went to *Gestinen*, where I stay'd two Days, as well to rest myself as to take a deliberate View of a Crystal Mine, discover'd very lately in that Territory. The Town is handsom and well situated, not more than four Leagues distant from the Valley, where stands the Entrance into *St. Gothard*: It is generally the Place where Travellers either dine or pass the Night. I took a Ramble in the Valley of *Urseren*, which is a small Territory, rugged and excessively cold; but I had not been half so near freezing to Death, had not my Curiosity led me to take a View of the Mouths of three great Roads; which are that to *Italy* by Mount *St. Gothard*; that to *Valais* by *La Fourche*, and from whence is an easy Descent into the *Milanese*; and that to the *Grison* Cantons by Mount *Tarveso*. The Inhabitants of *Urseren* are unciviliz'd Savages; all their Firing is Rose-tree. The large Town of *Switz*, pleasantly situated near the Lake belonging to the four Cantons, among Mountains of a great Height, and almost on the Bank of the River *Mutta*, is rich and exceeding populous. There are some tolerable good Buildings, among which *St. Martin's Church*, and the Town-Hall, are much more worthy of Commendation, than  
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are the two *Capuchin* Monasteries and the Nuns Convent. The Canton of *Switz* has partly the Honour of having given a Name to the whole *Swiss* Nation, without any one's being able to produce the true Reason: All that I could possibly pick out of that Tradition is, that the People of that Canton were exceeding warlike in former Ages, and who deduce their Original from a Colony of *Swedes*, were the first who encounter'd and vanquish'd the *Austrians*, and by those Means secur'd their own Liberties, and that of all their Allies; since when the Name of *Swiss*, deriv'd from that of *Swede*, or which seems to bear an Affinity therewith, has continued to the whole *Helvetick* Body. In the little Town of *Art*, is to be seen the Vase of a Fountain, of a single Stone, and consequently all of one Piece, which would be an Ornament to a Place of far greater Consideration.

*La Marche*, a Name which signifies Limit, or Frontier, by Reason that in Effect it anciently serv'd as a Boundary between the *Helvetians* and the *Grisons*, is a Territory whose Circumference exceeds not four Leagues, but is extremely fertile, uniform, and agreeable: Its Inhabitants are supply'd by the Lake with fine Cray-fish, and admirable good Trouts. This Country, which a certain Heiress of a Count of *Homburg*, brought in Dowry to  
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one of the Counts of *Hasburg*, or *Habsburg*, was taken from the House of *Austria* by the Forces of the Canton of *Appenzel*, who having possessed themselves thereof in a War they had with *Frederick* Duke of *Austria*, made a Present of it to their Allies, those of the Canton of *Switz*, in Acknowledgment of the Assistance they had given them in carrying on that War. In a Quarter of *La Marche*, has been discover'd a Mine of Brass, or rather a yellow Copper, much resembling Gold; This Metal is hard and weighty; but the Secret of melting it is not yet found out. I was determin'd not to quit the Canton of *Switz*, till I had visited the ancient and wealthy Abbey of our *Lady* of the *Hermits*, belonging to a Community of *Benedictines*, whose Abbot, or Superior, bears the Title of Prince. It is the *Loretto* of *Switzerland*; for though the History of its Foundation (which I believe to be very holy and strongly evident'd) is nothing near so miraculous as is that of the *Loretto* of *Italy*, yet the Convent of our *Lady* of the *Hermits* is full of Riches, and the Treasury of its magnificent Church is very considerable.

I departed from this Abbey for the Canton of *Basle*, whither I could not get without abundance of Trouble, by Reason of the uneasy difficult Roads. The Metropolis of this  
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Canton is ancient and of very great Account; as well for its considerable Extent, as for the vast Trade carried on there. It is admirably well situated on the Bank of the *Rhine*, just in the Spot where that celebrated River, seeming as if it would form a Barrier to *Swisserland*, makes an Elbow, and turning its Course Northwards, passes away to lose itself in the Ocean. This River cutting the City *Basle* almost in the middle, makes of it two distinct Cities, which hold Communication with each other by a fine wooden Bridge: The largest of the two Towns is on the *Swiss* Side of the *Rhine*, and the lesser looks towards *Germany*; nor nor can it be term'd a small Town, only in regard to the other, wherein are reckon'd more than one hundred and fifty Streets, four Market-places, and near forty Conduits, or Fountains. Its Cathedral, which now serves the *Reformed* for a Temple, is vast and exceeding beautiful: It is adorn'd with a fine marble Altar, large baptismal Fonts, and a costly Organ. There are to be seen in that Temple the Monument of the Empress *Ann* of *Hochburg*, Consort to *Rodolph*, the first Emperor of that Name, together with the Tombs of one of their Children, some Prelates, and several learned Men, among which is that of the famous *Erasmus*, who was a great Admirer of *Basle*, where he got printed

printed the greatest part of his Works, together with a good Number of those of the Fathers of the Church. In a large Arsenal in this City, they shew the Cuirass of *Charles Duke of Burgundy*, his Kettle-Drums, his Trumpets, together with Harness of a Horse which was kill'd under that Prince. The Town-House is adorn'd with a good Number of fine Paintings, the best Part whereof were done by *Holbein's* own Hand. There is likewise among the rest a very remarkable Piece of that Artist, representing our Saviour's Passion, in eight Compartments or Divisions. The celebrated University of *Basle*, founded by Pope *Pius IV.* still maintains its Character: It has all along produc'd great Men, and at this Day can shew several; among which Messieurs *Vernsfels* and *Bernoulli* are not the least conspicuous; this latter has the Reputation of being one of the ablest Mathematicians of the Age.

I find, as I had been told before I saw it, many things well worth seeing in the publick Library, which abounds with very valuable Manuscripts. Here are a Copy of the Works of the four Evangelists in *Greek*, which passes for a Performance of a thousand Years standing; all the *Acts* of the famous Council, which was held in this City; many *Canons* of the *Greek Church*; several Letters written by *John Huss*; a good Number by *Eras-*



*Erasmus* and *Amerbach*, which the Heirs of this latter sold to the Magistracy for nine thousand Crowns. In this Library are likewise to be seen several good Pieces by the Hand of *Holbein*, among which are that famous Painter's own Picture, done by himself, at the same Time when he drew that of his Wife, and those of *Erasmus* and his Friend *Amerbach*. There is no small Appearance, that it was in the great Hall belonging to this Library, or, at least under it, that the celebrated Council sat, which depos'd Pope *Eugenius* IV. to whom succeeded *Amadeus* VIII. Duke of *Savoy*, who took the Name of *Felix* V. Many of the Prelates and Doctors, who had brought with them their best Manuscripts, the better to enable them to assist at this Assembly, happening to be taken off with the Pestilence, during its Sitting, left behind them all those curious Works, of which consists the chief Wealth of this Library; the rest of its Treasure being, in great Part, the Writings taken from the Abbies in the *religious* Wars, which, being all annexed to this new Source, have help'd to swell it very considerably. There are very few private Persons to be met with, who can shew a Cabinet so well fill'd with curious Pieces and valuable Medals, as is that of the Professor *Feche*.

The Citizens of *Basle* will not suffer any Nobleman to be a Member of their Body,

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much less of their Council. The Nobility, say they, were all proscribed and banish'd their City at the *Reformation*, because they had, for a long time before, render'd themselves odious by their Tyranny, Pride, and imperious Haughtiness. These Republicans however, are far from being uncourteous towards Persons of Rank and Condition; nor are they any wise at a Loss to know what Deference ought to be shew'd them: But they decline permitting any to dwell among them; alledging, that the Fundamentals, the very Soul of a Common-wealth, is Union; and that this Union cannot possibly be preserv'd but by the Equality of its Members.

The adjacent Parts and Neighbourhood of this City are very beautiful; but without any regular Disposition: The Soil is rich and abundant; and its delicious Territory, which charms the Eye with a Landskip of so agreeable a Mixture, does not terminate till it reaches the Extremity of Mount *Jura*. The Bishop and Prince of *Basle*, resides at *Polantreu*, and his Canons at *Arlheisem*, a fine large Village two Leagues distant from this City: Their Church is beautiful, and their Houses well built. To be admitted into that Chapter, the Candidate must prove the Nobility of his Descent; but it is look'd on as a Derogation not to drink most excessively, more especially when in Com-

Company of Foreigners, whom they absolutely endeavour to make quite drunk. At Table they cheat them as much as possible, and perhaps every where else: But notwithstanding all that has been, or may be said of these Gentlemen, it is my Opinion, that they are fairer Gamesters at Play, tho' they have the Character of being otherwise.

The ancient *Augusta Rauracorum*, founded by *Manutius Plancus*, is now no other than a wretched poor Village, standing on the Bank of the *Rhine*: Nor is the Castle of *Farnsberg*, (celebrated for a great Victory gain'd by the *Swiss*, in a Battle they fought, to remove the Siege of that Place) either beautiful, or in good Repair. The small Cities of *Muncheſtein* and *Leichtail* are prettily situated, and well built; but they scarce deserve the Praise of any except of the People of the Country. As for the little City of *Walzburg*, lying at the Foot of Mount *Jura*, and defended by a Castle, whose Situation is of an excessive Height, and which has more than once embarras'd the *Roman* Forces, standing as it does in the very Mouth of the Streights between the Mountains, would, in War-time, be held as a most important Pass: It is the High-Road from *Geneva*, *Bearn* and *Soleure*, to *Basle*.

The Canton of *Sbasouse* is of no great Consideration; but its Territory is fruitful.



ful in Grain, abounds with good Pasture-Ground, and Vineyards, the Wines whereof are not contemptible. The Capital of this Canton is large, and well situated, notwithstanding the Ground on which it is built, is not very uniform: Nor is the Town ancient, but considerably strong, and serves as a Rampart to *Swisserland* against *Germany*. The *Rhine*, which runs by renders it a Place of great Trade; and many of its Citizens, who value themselves upon their Nobility, are free and sociable enough, but excessive Toppers.

I stay'd not long in that Canton; from whence I return'd hither, in order to take a View of the Cities of *Polantreu* and *Montbelliard*: The first, which is the Capital of the State of the Prince, who is Bishop thereof, as he also is of *Basle*, is very little worth seeing, being so ill built and so very disagreeable: The *Jesuits* have there only a very small College; and the much unregarded Prince in an ill-contriv'd Castle, standing on a sort of a Mountain, leads there a very melancholy, inactive Life.

The Prince of *Montbelliard*, who is of the House of *Wirtemberg*, at the Place of his Abode, leads in a manner the same Life as does a peaceably dispos'd *Basha* in his *Seraglio*, or *Haram*: His City is no less disagreeable to the Eye than is the Castle where he resides;

resides ; it is a kind of Fort, standing on a Rock, from whence he may view a good Part of his Sovereignty : The River *Hall*, before it enters the *Donx*, washes Part of the City.

From *Montbelliard*, which is a County, or Earldom of the Empire, bordering upon *Alsatia*, and the *Franche Comte*, I took the Route of *Val St. Limier*, into which I enter'd without repassing by *Neuchatel* ; and, from that beautiful and fertile Valley of *St. Limier*, which deduces its Name from the chief Village there, in which was formerly a College of twelve *Regular Canons* ; and passing thro' *Pierre Pertus*, I went to lodge at the ancient Abbey of *Bellelai*, where nothing is manufactur'd, except Cheese, which is not inferior to that which is made at *Brie*. *Pierre Pertus* is a Branch of Mount *Jura*, pierc'd by the *Romans*, purposely to have free Passage from one Country to the other, forcing an Entrance through a very thick and hard Rock, where they cut a Way of forty Foot long, and four *Swiss* Fathoms high, all thro' that rocky Mountain. This is no Work of these later Ages ; besides, from a *Latin* Inscription, there to be seen, it sufficiently appears to be an Undertaking of the Primitive *Romans* ; nor is that Inscription very favourable to those who endeavour to remove the ancient *Aventicum* out of the *Swiss*

Territories, in order to plant it in another Province.

I went from the Abbey of *Bellelai* to dine at *Laimont*, where the Bishop of *Polantreu* has built a fine House: The Collegiate Church of this little City is compos'd of twelve Canons, who receive their Benefices at the Hands of that Prince; it is neat and kept in very good Repair. Having been inform'd at *Laimont*, that there were two pious Hermits, who had taken up their Abode on a Mountain in that Neighbourhood, I made Provision of Fish in order to visit them in their Retirement: I found this Hermitage far exceeding, in Neatness, all I had been told of it. The Modesty of those two Recluses conceals from the Curious whether they are Persons of Condition, as in the Country they are thought to be; they subsist on a Pension allow'd them by their Relations, and others, who are not known: The Situation of this Retirement is perfectly agreeable.

Setting out from this Hermitage, I went to lodge at the Castle of *Lanschroon*, an Edifice regularly fortified, and situated on a very high Mountain. This is a Castle, belonging to his Most Christian Majesty, upon the Borders of *Alsatia* towards *Swisserland*, whither Prisoners of State are frequently sent, under the Care of two Companies of Invalids.



Invalids. From this Fort, or Castle, I went to the Abbey of *Notre Dame de la Pierre*, whose Convent, tho' exceeding rich, is not so magnificent as appear'd to me to be a certain Inn, or Tavern, lately built by the Community for the Accommodation of those Pilgrims, who, for Devotion, at some set Seasons of the Year, flock thither in Swarms. I found this whole Brotherhood, of *Benedictins*, in Arms against their Abbot; nor is it in the Power of the Abbot of *St. Gal*, notwithstanding his utmost Endeavours, to reduce them to Unity: This latter Ecclesiastick every Moment expects the Arrival of the Pope's *Nuncio*, to terminate this War, the greatest Part of the Expence whereof I have already condemn'd the mutinous Monks to defray, and that in the Presence of the warmest and most vigorous of their Community.

From *Notre Dame de la Pierre*, I went to refresh myself, during a Repose of three Days, with a wealthy *Mississippian*, who passes his Life most deliciously in a Castle, which he has very elegantly furnish'd: This undisturb'd *Epicurean* had a nothing less Share in the Affairs of the Times than any one who ever; but he never opens his Mouth but with all imaginable Reserve and Circumspection, expressing a Deference and Regard for all who are worthy thereof.

I return'd to *Basle*, where I went to visit the Fort of *Huninguen*, about a Cannon-Shot distant from this City: It stands on the Bank of the *Rhine*, and is both well fortified and kept in excellent good Repair. I took a Ramble from thence in the Plain and Mountain of that Name, from whence I just enter'd the Marquifate of *Baden*, without penetrating farther into that Territory: I look on it to be an exquisitely fine Country, and an inexhaustible Magazine to those who inhabit it. I pass'd below *Basle* to take a View of the pretty City of *Bruck*, on the River *Aâr*; from whence I pass'd on to *Kunifelden*, where now is to be found only a Part of the sumptuous Church, formerly there erected by *Elizabeth*, Queen Consort to *Albert* of *Austria*, King of the *Romans*: All those Monuments of Princes and Princesses, who were once there inhum'd, are now no longer to be met with. Near *Vindifsh*, which is now no other than a wretched Hamlet, between the Rivers *Rus* and *Aâr*, I visited the ancient Castle of *Habsburg*, built, nine hundred Years since, by a Count of *Altemburg*, from whom is recorded to have descended the Founder of the *Austrian* Family. This old Castle, of which nothing is now left remaining, except some Towers, standing on a very high Eminence, deserves not to be mention'd on any other Account, but that it had the Honour of being

ing the chief Place of Residence of several great Personages from whom that august House visibly derives its Original. I once more return'd to *Basle*, in order there to take Leave of the *Swiss* Cantons: But before I quit this Place, as well to satisfy your Curiosity, as by Anticipation to prevent my being interrogated by you on that Subject, I will do my best to give you a transient, yet genuine Idea of the Original of the *Swissers*, of the Cause of their Independency, of their Form of Government, of their Customs and Manners, and of the Situation of their Country.

As the primitive Rise of these People is buried in a very remote Antiquity, it would be a Matter of no small Difficulty for me to attempt treating of their very first Establishment; but there is somewhat more than a bare Appearance, that they are descended from those Nations, mention'd by *Titus Livius*, in his *Decades*, and of whom *Cæsar*, in his *Commentaries*, so frequently discourses: Yet as that People, no less enterprizing than warlike, carried their Hostilities into Countries in which their Attempts were not always crown'd with Success; and as it nowhere clearly appears, that the Gross of three hundred thousand Men, defeated in *Burgundy* by *Cæsar*, in a Body and in Parties, ever return'd to the Country from whence they first



first set out, there is a Probability, that their Vacancy was supplied by Strangers, Inheritors both of their martial Genius, Patrimony and Ambition. Nor can I sufficiently distinguish the *Swissers*, to trace down their Descent to our present Age, any higher than a little before the Reign of *Clotair II.* King of *France*. It was in his Reign that the City of *Nyon* was repair'd; that *Romont* was built, in a very advantageous and pleasant Situation, by a private Nobleman; and that *St. Gal*, a Disciple of *St. Colomban*, establish'd Christianity in that Country, then divided among a great Number of petty Tyrants, who, apparently, had shaken off the *Imperial* Yoke: Other Noblemen, at the same Time, fortified themselves in the Cities which their Ancestors had built, waging incessant War against each other, either to gratify their warlike Inclination, or to follow the miserable Example of several dignified Abbots, whose Opulency increasing, and giving Spurs to their natural Avarice, inspir'd them with Projects which, for many Years, render'd that unhappy Country a wretched Theater of Blood and Rapine. The Emperors, in Process of Time, having acquir'd a somewhat firmer Footing in *Swisserland*, set Governors over those People, whose Tyranny appear'd to the *Swiss* wholly insupportable. One of these Governors, having been  
defeated,

defeated, near *Chillon*, by *Peter of Savoy*, could not hinder that Prince from possessing himself of the greatest Part of the *Pais de Vaux*, the Entrance whereof was, on their Side, bravely and most vigorously defended by the Inhabitants of *Yverdun*. Three Peasants, one of *Uri*, another of *Switz*, and a third of *Underwald*, quite weary of that burthenfome Yoke, rose up and shook it from their Necks, four hundred Years since, causing their respective Cantons to revolt from the Emperor *Albert*; maintaining for a while their Liberty against the utmost Efforts of all the other Cantons, who at length follow'd the Example of those three Ring-Leaders. King *Lewis XI.* having in Person experienc'd the Prowess of the *Swiss* Nation, enter'd into an Alliance with them, who undertook to supply him with Troops. After this Prince's Decease, the said Alliance was renew'd by his Son *Charles VIII.* and the Majority of his Successors.

In a Word, *Swisserland* is a Country, first of all included in the *Gaulish* Territories, and afterwards shut up in *Germany*, between the *Rhine*, the Lake of *Constance*, the *Franché Comte*, the *Pais de Valais*, and the Lake of *Geneva*. It is divided into thirteen Cantons, exclusive of their Allies, some tributary Provinces, and four several States, or Governments, which they possess in *Italy*,  
which

which last were given them, as a Gratuity, by *Maximilian Sforza*, Duke of *Milan*. The River *Rhine*, which derives its Source from Mount *St. Gothard*, two Leagues from that of the *Rhone*, waters some of those Cantons, wherein are several Rivers, and a good Number of Lakes abounding with Fish. The Mountains, many of which are manur'd to their very Summits, are full of Deer, Bears, and Wild-Goats. The *Swiss* are a People mindful of their own Affairs, constant and persevering, and withal so industrious, that many of them pick out a commodious and comfortable Livelihood, in Places where no others but they would be able to subsist without the greatest Difficulty.

Notwithstanding all the thirteen Cantons are govern'd in Form of a Republick, they do not all follow the same Laws; neither do they, in any wise, depend one of the other. The Populace is, in some Manner, absolute; but I ought to intimate to you, that they are very much more so in the small than in the great Cantons, in which last, the greatest Part of the *Baillies* deport themselves like little *Basbaes*.

Of the Cantons, seven are intirely *Catholic*, four *Protestant*, and two wherein a general Liberty of Conscience is indifferently well established. The four *Protestant* Cantons are considerably more powerful than are the



the seven *Popish*; and there are far fewer Divisions among those of the *Reformed Religion* than among the *Catholicks*. These meet at *Lucerne*, the others at *Aâraw*, and the general Affairs of all the Cantons are discuss'd at *Baden*.

I have scarce any where met with a better Country than is the *Pais de Vaux*, which lies between Mount *Jura* and the Lake of *Geneva*. This Country may have been, probably, so call'd from the *Vandals*, who formerly possessed it: Its Soil is fruitful, and extremely well cultivated; especially in the Neighbourhood of the Lake *Leman*, which is, almost on every Side, border'd with fine and spacious Vineyards, from whence are made the best Wines which are drank in all *Switzerland*. That Part which is call'd by the Natives the *Coast* of this Lake, is a sort of Amphitheater, five or six Leagues in Length, cover'd all over with Vineyards, and Orchards, and inhabited by People of the Country, very much at their Ease, or by the most substantial Inhabitants of *Bearn*, who are daily there building new Habitations, in which they place their chief Delight. The Natives of the *Pais de Vaux*, are great Lovers of Wine and Liberty; and they are somewhat more lively than their Neighbours. They have, from Times immemorial, preserv'd many of their ancient Manners and Customs, upon which  
they

they build their Form of executing Justice. The Emperors never made any Attempt on their Privileges, which have likewise been inviolably maintain'd by the Dukes of *Sarvôy*; and I look on the People of *Bearn* to be too just and equitable not to follow the same Method: But with all their Liberty and desirable Immunities, such of the Nobility of this Country, who are not rank'd in the Number of the Citizens of *Bearn*, wear certain Fetters, without being over-sensible thereof, of which all their ancient Titles will not soon be able to rid them. It is now about two hundred Years since the Dukes of *Sarvôy* lost the Possession of this fine Country; from whence they, however, never reap'd any considerable Advantages, either in Specie or in Troops: But as for *Lauzane*, they could never once make themselves Masters thereof. The last of those Princes, who in the Year 1512, enter'd that City in Quality of *Vicar* of the Empire, was receiv'd at the Gate by a Gentleman, nam'd *Lewis de Seigneux*, one of the Council of Twenty-five, who presenting the Keys to the Duke, harangu'd him in these Terms; *Serenissime Princeps; has Claves Civitatis nostræ tibi trado; non ut in eâ domineris, sed ut in ea securus dormias.* That is, Most serene Prince; these Keys of our City I deliver into your Hands; not

not that you should rule it, but that you should sleep therein more securely.

The *Pais de Valais*, which is Part of the *Alpes*, was the ancient Habitation of the People of *Gallia Narbonensis*. This Territory, seated between *Swisserland*, *Savoy*, and the *Milanese*, is sufficiently fertile, and extremely populous: Its Inhabitants, profess'd Enemies to all Distinction of Nobility, are of a Genius martial enough, but unpolite, low of Stature, ignorant, superstitious, deceitful, and the greatest Dissemblers in the Universe. Two hundred Years since they enter'd into a strict Alliance with the *Swiss*. In their Country are to be found Springs of mineral Waters, Mines and Mountains, on which are Habitations which attract the Curiosity of Travellers. The *Grisons* are possess'd of the ancient *Rhetia*, towards the Sources of the River *Rhine*. Their Dominions have on the South the States of *Venice* and *Milan*; on the East *Tirol*; on the North and West *Suabia* and *Swisserland*. This State is divided into six Parts, of which the *Valtelline* is not the least considerable: It is a fine Valley, about fifteen Leagues in Length, thro' which passes the River *Adda*, in order to lose its Current in the Lake of *Come*. This important Pass is the Gate which the *Spaniards* and the *Venetians* much strive to open, when they would penetrate into *Germany*.  
This



This Canton is as fertile as can be expected of a Country so abounding with Mountains; at the Feet whereof there are, however, several delicious and most agreeable Vallies, out of which the Natives extract all their Provision of Grains and Wines; their Rivers likewise supply them with Fish in abundance; as do their Mountains with great Quantities of Wood-cocks, Pheasants and Partridges. *Coir* is the most considerable Town the *Grisons* have; and as it is true, that one of its Bishops was present at the Council of *Chalcedon*, this Bishoprick must, of Necessity, be of no less Antiquity than they report it to be. In this Country are very many noble and ancient Families; and the Natives are naturally acute, patient, laborious, sober, warlike, politick, and firmly attach'd to their Religion, which, generally speaking, is the *Reformed*, or *Protestant*.

The County and *Baillage* of *Baden*, which is under the Obedience of the *Swissers*, is very powerful, and considerably rich: Its Inhabitants are happy, pacifick and hospitable. Those of the *Baillage* of *Rhental*, originally of the ancient *Rhetia*, who inhabit the Banks of the *Rhine*, below the Lake of *Constance*, are no great Lovers of the *Swissers*, and very inveterate Haters of the *French*: They are possess'd of a tolerably agreeable Valley, wherein are the greatest Part of their Vine-yards, which

which the Peasants (whose more ordinary Occupation is spinning Flax for the Weavers of *St. Gal*) look after with the utmost Care. The Subjects of the *Baillage* of *Sargan*, separated from the *Grisons* by the River *Rhine*, are active and restless enough, and, in all Respects, have in them very much of the *German*.

The *Baillage* of *Tergon*, considerable for its Extent, consisting of fifty Parishes exceeding populous, nourishes a Generation of People not easy to be govern'd; nor do they acknowledge any Sovereign but Liberty and their own particular Interests. The Town of *Zurzach*, very ancient, extremely well peopled, neatly built, and situated on the Bank of the *Rhine*, is sufficiently known on Account of the considerable *Fairs* yearly kept there: Thither resort Merchants and Traders from all Parts; among all which, those who come from *France* are least respected. The City of *St. Gal* is allied to six of the *Swiss* Cantons, as its Abbey is to four of them. This Abbey, which has been enrich'd by the Liberality of the Kings of *France* and Dukes of *Swabia*, is much more remarkable for its Largeness than its Beauty: Its Abbots, at this Day petty Sovereigns, have all along been far more assiduous in endeavouring at a Princely Rank and Dignity, than in imitating their pious Founder; who, it is very probable, while he was building his hum-

ble Hermitage, little dream'd, that his Successors would, in Process of Time, find themselves in a Condition of becoming Proprietors of the Earldom of *Toggenburg*, and of carrying on such vigorous Wars as they have since undertaken. The City itself is indifferently large, well built, populous, has a very considerable Trade, and is much noted for the fine Manufacture of Linnen Cloths, and the vast Vent of those Commodities, which is from thence exported into every Part of *Europe*. Heretofore the City was, in many Particulars, under a sort of Subordination to the Abbey, as holding several Things immediately from it; but at present the Citizens have their Sovereignty apart, wholly independent: Nevertheless, this Accommodation is not altogether sufficient to prevent Hostilities, which are too frequently renew'd by the Party which imagines itself most in the Right. While none of this is on Foot, they all pass the Time agreeably enough; the Air is very sound; and one meets with good Society, and several very powerful Families.

*Geneva*, allied to the *Swissers*, is so prudently govern'd, that while circumjacent Potentates are all together by the Ears, it never gives any Handle for Suspicion.

The



The four *Baillages*, or Governments, of which the *Swissers* are possess'd in *Italy*, are considerable enough, as well on Account of their Situation, as for the Industry of their Natives. The *Baillage* of *Lugano* is the first, and that of the largest Extent: The City, which bears the same Name, is of an indifferent Bigness, standing on the Side of its own Lake, which is between Lake *Maggiore*, and that of *Come*. The second *Baillage* is *Locarno*, not so extensive as the former; it has however twenty very considerable Parishes. This Territory is exceeding fruitful; both its Lake and Rivers abound with Trouts, excellent Perches, and fine Cray-Fish: Its chief Town, which is none of the smallest, is situated not far from the Head of the Lake *Maggiore*, or the *Greater*. The third *Baillage* is *Mendrisa*, which derives its Name from the Capital Town, which stand Southwards of the Lake of *Lugano*. The Extent of this *Baillage* does not exceed that of the fourth, through which passes the River *Madia*, which loses itself in the Lake *Maggiore*. The Inhabitants of this *Baillage* are People almost all poor, and little industrious. The younger sort roam up and down *Swisserland*, there to subsist by working as *Masons*: But those of the two former *Baillages* are generally rich, or, at least, very much at their Ease, as well through their

own good Management and Abilities, as by the Bounty of their Soil. They are not, however the best principled People in the World ; especially in regard to Strangers, upon whom they impole to the utmost of their Power ; and, during the last War, *France*, too easy in passing by Injuries, had but too convincing Proofs of their Malevolence and Partiality.

I was told, the other Day, by an ancient Gentleman of *Alsatia*, that, within his Memory, those of *Geneva* us'd commonly to be call'd CITIZENS ; those of *Lauzane* HONOURABLE ; of *Vevay* HONEST ; of *Valais* RUSTICKS ; of *Sion* FACTIOUS ; of *Yverdun* SOCIABLE ; of *Neuchatel* BERNOIS ; of *Bearn* PROUD ; of *Friburg* GOOD ; of *Soleure* FRENCH ; of *Zurich* SWISSERS ; of *Shafouse* DRUNKARDS ; of *Lucerne* CATHOLICKS ; the *Grisons* POLITICIANS ; and those of *Basle* MERCHANTS.

I think what I have been saying concerning *Swisserland* sufficient, especially since I never undertook to give you the History of the Countries through which I should ramble : I confin'd myself only to give as perfect an Idea as I could of the Manners and Religion of the several People among whom I should happen to come. By the Letter which you gave yourself the trouble to send me into this Country, you seem to

to reproach me with having treated of the *Turks* too succinctly. It is true that I did not inlarge on their manner of living, by reason that nothing of a Novelty, on that Subject, occur'd to impart to you; such an Infinity of Travellers having already handled that Theme so copiously and with such Uniformity, insomuch that we are no more Strangers to their Character, than we are to their Superstition. It has, however, been of late remark'd, that the *Ottoman* Ministers act with greater Circumspection, Privacy and Application than ordinary; and that, without seriously applying themselves to the Study of elegant Literature, they learn foreign Languages by Degrees, furnishing themselves with *French* Books, but many more in *Italian*, that Tongue seeming easier for them to attain than any other. The *Grande*es of the *Porte* improve daily more and more, beginning to lay aside their Stiffness; and the greatest *Bashas*, in spite of all the Deference they bear to their Prophet, drink Wine in publick, being no longer so much the Dupes to their *Alcoran*, as many are dispos'd to conjecture, notwithstanding when they mention it they generally seem in an Ecstasy. There are now few of the *Turks* in any considerable Post, who do not seek, in the Number and Strength of their Retinue, to secure their Lives in case any Attempt is

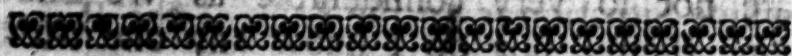


made against them. Those who were so ready to present their Necks to the Bow-String, with such exemplary Resignation, at the *Sultan's* first Order, will for the future be less submissive; and if they do not openly stand on their Defence, they will at last seek their Safety in a speedy and timely Flight. As Proof of what I tell you, I can produce an Instance of a *Basha*, or Tyrant, whom I saw at *Damascus*, who not only refus'd his Emperor to tender him his Head as a Present, but who, after having, malgre the *Sultan*, reign'd seven Years despotically in *Phœnicia*, found the Secret of carrying on a Negociation in the *Seraglio*, and of obtaining the Government of *Egypt*, of which Province he had just taken Possession at that Time when I quitted it. The late Captain *Basha*, likewise, who either could not or would not take *Corfu*, boldly scower'd the Seas, after the Loss of his Charge, with two Gallies, arm'd and maintain'd at his own Expence. I met him coming out of the Port of *Scio*, just as he had been there plundering two or three Coffers of the *Grand Seignior's* Customs, "standing in need, he said, of a Sum of Money, in order to make him King of *Tripoly*;" which Place he actually block'd up, having first seiz'd the Towns of *Derna* and *Bengazi*.

The

The Revenues of the *Ottoman* Emperor are not so very considerable as we imagine them; nor do I know any one Monarch in the World who is so much cheated, and so ill serv'd as that Prince, whose Ports and Store-Houses, quite unprovided of all Necessaries, are in a most wretched Condition, and his *Fanizaries* as indifferently maintain'd as disciplin'd. If out of the Bosom of *Greece* another *Hector* or *Achilles* would but spring up, the *Greeks* would not long groan under the Weight of the Chains which now so grievously oppress them. But what can be hop'd for from a Nation which has render'd itself so very contemptible?

I am setting out for *Alsatia*, to visit that agreeable Province; from whence, with my usual Punctuality, and the Pleasure I take in so doing, I will not fail of writing to you.



## LETTER XXI.

Strasburg, Nov. 20, 1722.

**B**EING so near *Alsatia*, I determin'd not to deny myself the Satisfaction of visiting one of the best and finest Countries in *Europe*. Leaving *Basle* in the Morning I reach'd *Kaisersberg* (that is *Cæsar's Mountain*) soon enough to lodge there the same Night. This is a small City, very poor, but agreeable, and situated in the Part of *Alsatia* most abounding with Vineyards. *Colmar* is, beyond all Comparifon, far more considerable than *Kaisersberg*: According to the Tradition of those Countries, it sprang from the Ruins of the ancient *Argentouaria*, render'd famous by the Emperor *Gratianus* for the Victory he obtain'd over the *Germans*. At present not the least Footstep of its former Calamities is left remaining; for since the Duke of *Wimar* took it (after whose Death it was deliver'd up to *France*) it is become the very best Garrison of the whole Province: It is exceeding populous, rich, happy; and one meets with good Society at the Habitations of several Members of the *Supreme Council* of *Alsatia*, establish'd



establiſh'd in this Capital of *Upper Alſatia*,  
 whoſe Situation is on the Bank of the River  
*Ill.*

From *Colmar*, by a very good Road, I went  
 to *New Briſac*, built directly oppoſite to *Old*  
*Briſac*, which by the laſt Treaty of Peace  
 was reſtor'd to the *Imperialiſts*. The new Ci-  
 ty ſtands on this Side the *Rhine*, half a  
 League diſtant from that River: It is very  
 well built, and regularly fortified. One en-  
 ters this Town by four diametrically op-  
 poſite Gates, at the Heads of as many moſt  
 beautiful Streets, exactly ſtraight and even,  
 all which terminate in a very fine Square.  
 With choice Company one might paſs the  
 Time deliciously in this pretty little Place,  
 were but the Air ſomewhat more healthful.  
*Old Briſac*, ſtrong rather by its natural Situa-  
 tion, than by the Goodneſs of the Fortifica-  
 tions, appear'd in my Eyes to be an ill-con-  
 triv'd, diſagreeable Place. Some Authors  
 call it the *Citadel* of *Alſatia*: Others term it  
 the *Key* of *Germany*; and one of the modern  
 Writers will needs have it to be the *Pillow* on  
 which the *Auſtrian* Family takes its Repoſe:  
 It did not, however, much appear, during  
 the laſt War, that this Place deſerv'd the  
 more than ordinary Attention of his *Imperial*  
*Majeſty*; its Magazines being wholly unpro-  
 vided, and the Garrifon altogether too weak  
 and out of Order to keep the *French Army*  
 long

long languishing before it, how well dispos'd soever the Generals *D'Arco* and *Marcilli* might have been for a vigorous and resolute Defence.

*Turckheim*, a small Town, not far from *Colmar*, would be little known, were it not for the Advantage there gain'd by *Mareschal Turenne* over the *Imperialists*: That Battle in some Measure decided the Dispute about *Alsatia* in Favour of King *Lewis XIV.* *Ensisheim*, on the River *Ill*, is well situated, and is, at least, altogether as agreeable as the small City *Sultz*, of which the Bishop of *Strasbourg* is Proprietor. *Ruffach* is only valuable in War Time, on account of its Castle; and *Haguenau* and *Weissenburg* are only resorted to, as good Cantonings, towards the End of the Campaign.

*Shlestadt*, situated on the River *Ill*, was anciently a Free and Imperial City: Tradition says that it was destroy'd by *Anila*. In Process of Time it was rebuilt by other Princes: The best of its present State are the Fortifications, which are in no contemptible Condition. The City of *Besfort*, lying four Leagues from *Montbelliard*, at the Foot of a Mountain, is likewise considerable for its Strength: It is a Pass of Consequence to the *Franche-Comté*; but the Troops appointed to defend this Place may justly boast themselves

selves of being sent to the dismallest and most melancholy Garrison in the whole Realm.

*Phalsburg*, situated at the Foot of the Mountains of *Vosga*, near the River *Zinzel*, defended by an ancient Castle, and some new Fortifications, made by the late King, is far from being either a fine or a pleasant Place: Neither can *Saverne* much boast of its Agreeableness, but is rather dull and insipid, except when the Bishop of *Strasbourg* makes it the Place of his Residence; which is not very often: That Prelate lives there at a Princely Expence, residing always, when there, in the fine Castle built by Cardinal *Furstenberg*. Had it not been for *Mareschal Turenne*, no more would be said of the Town of *Emsfilheim* than is of several other Places, not at all worth mentioning.

I struck off a little from *Alsatia* in order to take a View of the fine Country of *Brisgaw*. *Friburg*, its Metropolis, is situated on the Side of a little River, at the Extremity of a fruitful Plain where begins the *Black Mountain*: This City, well fortified, and defended likewise by a good Citadel, is considerably large, and populous, has a good Number of Churches, several Religious Communities, and a celebrated University, founded by *Albert of Austria*, surnam'd the Gentle.

*Landau*, in the *Lower Alsatia*, built on the Bank of the River *Queitch*, upon the Frontiers



Frontiers of the *Palatinate*, is situated in the most fertile and most agreeable Part of the Province. It is surrounded by an Infinity of delicious Meadows, and many good Towns and Villages, whose Inhabitants furnish, with Store of all Provisions, the Markets of this City, the Fortifications whereof have cost immense Treasure.

Having well visited the Neighbourhood of *Landau*, I from that City, in two Days, reach'd to *Strasburg*, where I now am. This is the Capital of both the *Higher* and the *Lower Alsatia*, and is one of the finest, largest, and most considerable Cities in all *Germany*, as well on Account of its Situation, as for the Importance of the Fortifications made there by the *French* as soon as it fell into their Possession. It stands a Quarter of a League from the *Rhine*, in the Midst of a large Plain, where it receives the Waters of the Rivers *Ill* and *Breusse*. This City is, by *Tacitus* and *Cesar*, nam'd *Tribocorum* and *Tribocum*, and by others it is call'd *Argentina*. Its principal Edifices are of a reddish Free-Stone, brought chiefly from those vast Quarries which lye about *Saverne*, or from those which have been discover'd along the Banks of the *Rhine*. These Quarries furnish the Country with Stones, hard and solid, and of an amazing Bigness; some having been taken out from thence of no less than

than four Fathoms in Length and one in Thickness. The Arsenal and the Town-House are worth seeing; and *our Lady's* Church is the Wonder of all Travellers, not only for the Grandeur and Magnificence of the Fabrick, and its Brass Gates, but, in particular, for its fine pyramidical Steeple, a Piece of most admirable Architecture, highly esteem'd for its rare Workmanship and prodigious Height, reputed to be no less than five hundred seventy four Foot from the Basis. I was never tir'd with looking on the marvellous Clock, which, by innumerable Wheels and Machines, sets all the Constellations in Motion, and on the Dyals which shew the Hours, gives the exact Courses of the Moon and the other Planets. This Imperial City was once govern'd after the Method of a Republick; but the *French* have made some Alterations in the Form of its Government: The Bishop, who is Suffragan to *Mentz*, is not over magnificently seated in his Episcopal Palace, notwithstanding his Revenues are very considerable.

Fort *Lewis* on the *Rhine*, stands in one of the Islands of that River, seven or eight Leagues below *Strasburg*: All the Streets of this little City (which is inhabited by People of almost all Countries) are perfectly straight, and the Houses exactly alike in their Symmetry. The Island is compass'd with an irregular

gular Enclosure of Earth, compos'd of several Bastions and Redents.

The Inhabitants of *Weissemburg* are rich only in the great Privileges, for Hunting and Fishing, which they enjoy. The Territory of this little City, built on the Bank of the River *Lauter*, is fertile and agreeable. *Alsatia*, in general, is one of the most plentiful Countries one can find any where; and tho' a conquer'd Province, *France* has not any to which it shews a greater Regard and Affection. The Extent of this Province runs all along by the River *Rhine*, which is to its East, to the West it has *Lorraine*, to the North the *Palatinate* of the *Rhine*, and to the South lies *Sundgau*, otherwise call'd *Le Comté de Ferrete*, with Part of the *Franche-Comté*, and of *Swisserland*. It is the Country of the ancient *Tribotes*, of which the *Romans* were Masters for the Space of four hundred Years; after them the Kings of *France* had some Authority there, but without the absolute Sovereignty 'till the Reign of *Otho I.* *Otho III.* erected it into a *Landgraviate*, which the House of *Austria* long enjoy'd; and when *Lewis XIV.* had join'd it to the rest of his Conquests, the *Emperor*, in his own and the Names of all his Successors, made a solemn Renunciation thereof to the Crown of *France*, in 1648, at the Treaty of *Munster*.

The



The Mountains, which divide *Alsatia* from *Lorrain*, are of a considerable Height, and are in a Manner all over cover'd with Groves of Firs, Elms, Oaks and Beeches: Those which lye towards *Swisserland* are not so high as the others, and abound with Game, and Wood, as well for Building as Fuel. The Country round about these Mountains is pleasantly diversified with most agreeable and well-manur'd Risings, and very fertile Plains: There are several beautifully fine Forests; but the most remarkable are that of *La Hart*, in the *Upper*, and those of *Haguenau*, and *Lutterburg* in the *Lower Alsatia*. In the Mountains by which *Lorrain* is separated from this Country, I met with abundance of Oaks very proper for Shipping, as likewise a good Number of Pines, or Fir-Trees, whose Height was at least a hundred and twenty Foot, of which serviceable and beautiful Masts might be made: But they cannot be transported to any of the *French* Ports without great Expence; and with good Store of Coin, you know, many Difficulties may be surmounted.

In this Province there are several very rich Abbies, with many Communities, of both Sexes, which, if not excessively wealthy, are at least very much at their Ease: I examin'd the Charters of all the most considerable, the Titles of whose Foundations sufficiently

sufficiently demonstrate, that several Grandees of the Province assum'd the Rank of *Princes* and *Dukes*, which in those Ages could signify no other than *Chiefs*, *Captains*, and *Leaders*: But those Families have been long since extinct; and as for that of *Habsburg*, it never had any more than the *Landgraviate* of this Province, which Honour was given to the Grand-father of *Rodulph I.* by one of the Emperors. The House of *Lorrain* alone, which for Antiquity gives Place to not one Family in the *Christian* World, can, whenever it pleases, evidently prove its being descended, in a direct Line, from a Sovereign Count of *Alsatia*, which Prince deriv'd his Original from Royal Progenitors.

*Alsatia* does not only abound in every necessary to make Life comfortable, and that in the greatest Superfluity; there are, likewise, Mines both of Silver, Copper and Lead, with a Mineral Spring, near *Sultzbach*, the Waters whereof are in great Reputation against the Palsy and Weakness in the Nerves: Happy are those who have not any Occasion for those Medicinal Baths, and still happier they whose Revenues are not dependent on such sort of Mines, the Labour and Expence whereof is at least wholly equivalent to the Profit. I pass'd my Time very pleasantly in *Alsatia*: If I find such Agreeableness and Satisfaction in some of the Cities  
of

of *Germany*, which I am going to visit by the Conveniency of the *Rhine*, I shall think myself amply recompenc'd for all the Trouble and Pains I have been at in my Travels.



## LETTER XXII.

*Mentz*, Dec. 12, 1721.

FROM *Strasburg* I went to dine at *Fort-Lewis*, on the *Rhine*, which Place I had seen before. Thence I put into *Philipsburg*, where the Inns and Publick Houses do not much invite a Stranger to take up his Residence. It is a Fortress of no small Importance in *Germany*, which was call'd *Udenheim* 'till such Time as *Philip-Christopher Soeteren*, Bishop of *Spire*, and Archbishop of *Treves*, caus'd it to be much enlarg'd, and fortified with seven Bastions. Near the *Rhine* one meets with a large Episcopal Castle, built by that Prelate, and the Village of *Udenheim*, in a Plain, surrounded by Mountains, which defend the Avenues to this Place, which has been taken and re-taken by the *French*, and at length yielded up by the Treaty of *Reswick*, its Fortifications being then perfected.

O

*Spire*,



*Spire*, in the *Palatinate* of the *Rhine*, was formerly call'd *Nemetes*, which resign'd its Name to the Village of *Spire*, when that and the other Town, which was near it, were join'd together. A Bishop of this City assisted at the Synod, assembled at *Cologne* in 346: Both before and after his Time the Canons of the Cathedral of *Spire*, (who were not to stand any Examination concerning the Gentility of their Blood in order to be admitted into that Chapter) liv'd in common, leading a Life intirely Monastick and edifying; but near about the Year 980, they judg'd it more for their Purpose to Secularize, and accordingly lodg'd apart, and divided the Revenue. This City has had its Misfortunes and Revolutions; but it was never so near its total Destruction as in the Year 1675. In its Cathedral Church are still to be seen the Monuments of the Emperors *Conrad II.* *Henry III.* *Henry IV.* *Henry V.* *Philip*, *Rodolph I.* *Adolph* of *Nassau*, and *Albert I.* The Bishop of this City is the chief Judge of the Imperial Chamber of *Spire*, consisting of two Presidents, one a *Catholick* and the other a *Protestant*, and of fifteen Counsellors, eight of which are *Romanists*, and the other seven of the *Reformed Religion*.

From *Spire*, without making any Stop at *Manheim*, which has not yet recover'd from the

the furious Effects of the last War, I descended to *Wormes*, the Capital Town of a small Territory, of which the Bishop of that City is Proprietor. It stands on the Bank of the *Rhine*, in the *Lower Palatinate*, was ruin'd by *Attila* in the fifth Century, and afterwards rebuilt by King *Clovis*. This City, in the Year 1690, escap'd no better than these two which I last visited.

Continuing my Route by the *Rhine*, from *Wormes* I arriv'd at *Mentz*, situated on that River near the Place of its Confluence with the Streams of the *Mein*. The Antiquaries of this City, not content to be indebted for the Foundation of their Metropolis to *Dru-sus*, in Contradiction of the best and most authentick Writers, father it on one of the Sons of *Japhet*, or, at the very least, on a certain Grandee who escap'd from *Troy*: However that may be, it is of very great Antiquity, and was formerly destroy'd by the *Batavians*, in the Reign of the Emperor *Vespasian*, and by the *Barbarians* in the Time of *Julian*. The *Vandals* and the *Sueves* likewise reduc'd it to a most wretched Condition; but it was restor'd by the Liberalities of the Most Christian Kings, and amongst others of *Clovis* and *Dagobert*. *St. Crescent*, one of *St. Paul's* Disciples, is said to have been the first Bishop of this City: But what I am most certainly assur'd of is, that the

Arch-Bishop of *Mentz* is *Dean* of the Electors, and Grand Chancellor of the Empire; and that the Canons of the Metropolitan Church, weary of leading a Monastick Life, Seculariz'd after the same Manner as did those of *Spire*. I also know that the Canonesses enjoy a very considerable Revenue; that there is no being admitted into the Chapter without producing Proofs of Nobility by both Father and Mother; and that the Person who puts in for this Arch-Bishoprick does not for nothing obtain the Suffrages of the Canons, which are essential to his Election. This Elector has his Mareschal, and his Chancellor; the Office of the first is to manage War Affairs, and that of the other those which regard Civil Justice. In this City are several fine Churches, a stately Palace for the Elector, a beautiful Town-House, and three Castles, all which deserve Examination. The *Carthusian* Monastery, beautifully situated, is no less worthy to be visited, than is the fine House built by the present Arch-Bishop, about a hundred Paces without the City. This Prince spares no Cost to render the Town formidable to an Enemy's Army; and he seems to be very much respected by his People: He is of the House of *Schomborn*, and forgets not that his Family stands in need of his Benevolence. The first Prelate who was created Elector of *Mentz*, most certainly had it



it not in his Power to bring Proofs of the Purity and Nobility of his Descent; but he was not evertheless illustrious on account of the exemplary Tokens of his great Humility, which he never ceas'd from shewing daily during the whole Course of his Life: For being the Son of a Cart-wright, he would never have any other Arms in his Escutcheon than a Wheel, lest he should forget the Meanness of his Original. As to the rest, this City is very considerable, exceeding populous, and has in it a good Number of Persons of Distinction, who appear'd to me sociable and communicative enough; and I am told that they are very much so to those who are more particularly acquainted with them than I am: However, the greatest Part of those I visited, entertain'd me both in Town and Country, and gave me all the Marks of an undisguis'd Politeness that I could either expect or desire.



## LETTER XXIII.

Cologne, Decemb. 26. 1722.

I Went from *Mentz* to *Francfort*, an Imperial City in *Franconia*, divided in two by the River *Mein*. It is a Place of very great Trade, by reason of the celebrated Fairs, which are there kept twice a Year, one in Spring and the other in Autumn. Its Houses are all of Timber, plaister'd over, and painted on the out-side : It has divers fine Squares, and some very wealthy Merchants. The memorable Council which the Emperor *Charlemagne* caus'd to sit there in 794, has render'd this City famous to Posterity ; nor is it less so since the Time the Election of the Emperors has been established there, by Virtue of *Bulla Aurea*, or the *Golden Bull*, a Constitution which the Emperor *Charles IV.* made at *Nuremburg*. Concerning this City's Original Authors discourse variously ; but the most receiv'd Opinion is, that it derives its Name from the *Franks*, or *French*, who made it their Passage, even before the Beginning of the sixth Century ; and that *Charlemagne* inlarg'd it  
very

very considerably, after his Victory over the Saxons, near the River *Mein*. As this River cuts it in two Parts, the biggest of them retain's the Name which is common to the whole City, and the lesser, which is as it were the Suburb, is called *Saxen-hausen*, which is to say Houses of Saxons. Neither of them is of any considerable Strength, and may depend only on the Depth of their broad Ditches, always full of Water, and tolerably well lin'd. The best Buildings are the Town-House, the *Braunfelds*, or Imperial Palace; the Port; and St. *Bartholomew's* Church, thought to be founded by King *Pepin*, if it was not rather the Work of *Charles the Pious*, King of Germany. At *Francfort* may be likewise seen the great Hall, where sat the famous Council, at which the Emperor *Charlemagne* spoke so learnedly; it was also out of that Monarch's Mouth that the sage *Alcuin* explain'd himself before the principal Members of that great Assembly.

Returning from *Francfort* to *Mentz*, I stop'd two Hours at *Rhinsfeld*, or *Rhinsfelden*, a small City of *Suabia*, situated on the Bank of the *Rhine*, which, in 1676, was the Theater of War. It is still a Place of moderate Strength; and I look'd on it to be but indifferently agreeable for the Officers who are there posted,



I went from thence to pass away two Days at *Coblentz*, another City of Germany, in the Arch-Bishoprick of *Treves*, and appertaining to that Elector : It stands at the Confluence or Meeting of the Rivers *Moselle* and *Rhine*. To all Appearance, it was from that Situation that the *Latins* gave it the Name of *Confluentes*. *Antoninus* in his *Itinerary*, makes some Mention of this Place ; but since what he says of it is very little, there is much Appearance that in his Days it was far less considerable than it is at present. There are some very spacious Churches, and divers fine Tenements built all along the River Side, which I cross'd several times, to take a View of the famous Fortress of *Hermenstein* on the other Side of the *Rhine*, which Fabrick deservedly passes for a very regular Building. Opposite to *Coblentz*, the Arch-Bishop of *Treves*, an Elector of the Empire, has a Palace, much less worth visiting than is the *Carthusian* Monastery. About the Year 860, some Prelates met in this City, in order to accommodate the Differences which were between King *Charles* the Bald, *Lewis Germanicus*, and *Lothair*, King of *Lorrain*. They drew out a sort of *Formulary*, for the Observation of the Treaty, to which *Germanicus* swore first, and after him the two Kings took the Oath : This Assembly is said to have conven'd about the Month of

of *June*, in the Vestry of *St. Castor's Church*. In the Library of the *Carthusians* I perus'd several *Ordinances*, made by eight Prelates, who were conven'd at *Coblentz* by *Charles the Simple*, King of *France*, and the Emperor *Henry*, surnamed the *Fowler*, in the which it was very expressly forbidden to contract Marriages between any Relatives within the seventh Degree of Consanguinity. The Princes of our Days, not having so much waste Time on their Hands as had those Monarchs, treat of Affairs somewhat more serious and material.

The small City of *Andernac*, situated at the Foot of the Mountain, is poor and of very little Note. *Bonne*, where I made some stay, daily increases both in Beauty and Extent. It stands on the Bank of the *Rhine*, about four Leagues from *Cologne*, in a very pleasant Plain, almost encompass'd with agreeable Eminencies, cover'd with Vineyards and shady Trees. It is a Place of great Antiquity, and formerly highly celebrated on account of the Battles fought thereabouts by the *Roman Legions*. The Elector of *Cologne* makes his ordinary Residence in this City, which suffer'd extremely in the first Wars of the *Netherlands*, and was vigorously attack'd by the *Barbarians*, and by the Troops of the Duke of *Parma*, who at last, in the Year 1588, carry'd it by Famine. In this City it  
was,

was, that *Frederick of Austria*, who was elected Emperor, malgre the Opposition made by *Lewis of Bavaria*, was crown'd. It was once an Imperial City, but is at present under the Jurisdiction and Obedience of the Elector of *Cologn*. Several Writers, who perhaps had their particular Views in so doing, give likewise for its Founder a *Trojan Prince*: But *Florus*, less bias'd, and a little more exact, renders it, amongst others, a Performance of *Drusus*. Whoever was the Founder, certain it is, that it was the *Ara Ubiorum* of the Ancients, spoken of by both *Tacitus* and by *Antoninus*, in his *Itinerary*. It is also taken Notice of on some Medals of *Augustus*, under the Title of a Colony, and is call'd *Col. Julia Bona*. The Elector's Palace is very fine and magnificent; nor is the Town-House a contemptible Building: There one meets with several good Pieces of Painting, and a Clock, the Musick of whose Chimes is no wise displeasing to the People of that Country. The chief Church of this City is believ'd to owe its Foundation to the Mother of *Constantine the Great*, erected in Honour of the holy Martyrs, *Cassius*, *Florentius*, and *Marcellus*, Soldiers in the *Theban Legion*: Many would scruple vouching to the Truth of this Particular; but it is much easier to be known, that a certain most beautiful House, which is none of the least

Orna,



Ornaments of *Bonne*, was built, a few Years ago, by the Count of *St. Maurice*, a General Officer, descended from one of the ancientest and most illustrious Families in *Savoy*.

From *Bonne* I went to *Cologne*, which is one of the most considerable Cities in the whole Empire. The *Latin* Authors gave it the Names of *Colonia Ubiorum*, and *Colonia Agrippina*. It is an Imperial City, and one of the four *Anseatick* Capitals, a famous University and Arch-Bishoprick, whose Prelate, who is a Prince and Elector of the *Roman* Empire, assumes the Title of Arch-Chancellor, Duke of *Westphalia*, Legate born in *Italy*, &c. The City is very ancient, and derives its Original from the *Ubii*, a People who, in order to be in a Condition to make Head against their most inveterate Enemies the *Suevi*, found Means to enter into an Alliance with *Julius Caesar*. The *Ubii*, having, under the Protection of *Agrippa*, pass'd the *Rhine*, on the left Bank thereof founded the City of *Cologne*, in Honour of that their Patron and Protector, calling it *Colonia Agrippa*. Some Writers give a different Account of this Fact, affirm that City to have been then existing, and that it was only enlarg'd and embellish'd by the *Ubii*, some few Years before the Birth of *Christ*. Since that Date, *Agrippina*, Grand-Daughter to the above-mention'd *Agrippa*,  
and

and Mother to the Emperor *Nero*, being a Native of this City, and ambitious of giving some remarkable Token of her Liberality, and Benevolence to the Place of her Birth, considerably extended its Dimensions, and establish'd therein a Colony of Veterans. The *Romans* were driven from this City by *Meroveus*, who is reckon'd among the Kings of *France*; not long after which it was utterly ruin'd by *Attila*, and repair'd by *Clotvis*. On Account of its great Extent, its Senate, and the Beauty of its Buildings, *Cologne* is term'd the *German Rome*. Eighty three Towers defend its Walls, the Approach whereof is inclos'd by a triple Ditch, in Form of a Half-Moon. It has upwards of three hundred Churches, of which the Metropolitan, dedicated to the Apostle *St. Peter*, were it intirely finish'd, might be counted among the most sumptuous Structures in the Universe. There are to be seen several very remarkable Monuments, and in particular that which is pretended to be the Tomb of the three Kings who render'd Homage to the Son of God: They will needs have it, that their Bodies were transported to *Cologne*; and their Bones are shewn in a Chappel, illuminated with many Lamps, which is behind the Choir of this Cathedral. None except Persons of the first Quality and Distinction can hope for Admittance into this Chapter,

the

the Canons whereof bear the Title of Counts. In this City are five principal *Pi-azzas*, or Squares; but for my particular, I no less esteem the Politeness and sociable Temper of its Inhabitants, than I do the Neatness of the Streets and the Beauty of the Structures. It is reported that St. *Anno*, one of the first Arch-Bishops of this City, caus'd the Eyes of certain Judges to be pull'd out, because they had pass'd an unjust Sentence against a poor Woman, and that he only suffer'd an Eye of one of them to be left in his Head, to be in a Condition of guiding the rest to their respective Abodes.

This Elector is Grand Chancellor of the Empire, in *Italy*, tho' he cannot exercise the Function of his Charge in that Country: The Elector of *Mentz* complains of the same Obstacle in *Gaul*; yet their Arguments are different, and that the rather, because there are in *Italy* some Principalities and States still dependent on the Empire: To this must be added, that the Princes who possess them, having obtain'd the Quality of perpetual *Vicars* of the Empire, fail not of performing, within their respective Sovereignities, all that the Emperor himself could perform, as to general Affairs; and, at worst, are oblig'd to go to the Imperial Court, upon every important Expedition. And for this Reason it is, that the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz*, who is Grand Chancellor



Chancellor in *Germany*, has the Keeping of the Archives, and some Titles which regard *Italy*. Notwithstanding it is expressly decided, by the *Bulla Aurea*, or *Golden Bull*, that the Arch-Bishop of *Cologne* has a Right to Crown the Emperors, it nevertheless appears, that this belongs to him only when the Coronation is perform'd within his own Diocese, or those of his Suffragan Bishops; since the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz* never fails to dispute the Point with him whenever that Ceremony is perform'd elsewhere. It has been at last agreed, that either of these two Prelates should have the Power to officiate in that Solemnity within his respective Jurisdiction: But this is not any Manner of Obstacle to hinder him of *Cologne* from taking the upper-Hand throughout his Arch-Bishoprick, and Chancellorship of *Italy*, where he always places himself on the Emperor's Right-Hand, leaving the Left for the Elector of *Mentz*, who every where else assumes the Precedence.

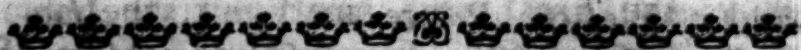
The Arch-Bishop of *Cologne* has his Officers who execute the Justice Criminal within that City, notwithstanding it is free, and not immediately subject to the Empire; insomuch, that the Magistrates never suffer their Prelate, when he visits them, to sojourn long there, especially if he comes attended with a numerous Retinue. This Diffidence of the  
Citizens

Citizens of *Cologne*, is the Source of great Disputes and Misunderstandings, which have, and do frequently happen between this City and its Electoral Prince.

The Grand Chapter of *Cologne* consists of sixty Canons, who are all Sons of Princes or Counts; nor do they ever introduce into their Number any private Cavaliers, or even Barons, as they do at *Mentz* and *Treves*, where Princes and Counts are not willingly admitted: But how difficult soever those of *Cologne* are in accepting Proofs of high Extraction on the Father's Side, I have very convincing Reasons to be persuaded that they are gallant enough to be much more easy and tractable as to what regards the Mother. The twenty four elder Canons form a particular Chapter for the Election of the Arch-Bishop; and they alone have Votes, both active and passive; it being in their Breasts to elect whom they please, out of their own Fraternity: But that Dignity is not to be had for nothing.

I made very good Cheer at the *Carthusian* Monastery, which is large, and considerably opulent. *St. Bruno*, the Founder of that Order, was a Native of this City; from whence I am about to continue my Journey, along the *Rhine*, in order to take some Repose, after all my Toils, with one of my good Friends who waits my coming in the Territory of *Cleves*. You may depend on having there,

there, in me, an unfeign'd Friend and humble  
Servant.



## LETTER XXIV.

*Wezel, March 4, 1723.*

**I** Heartily wish that this New Year may prove as happy to you, as have been those which preceded it; and that a second *Mississipi*, which has so well repair'd the quite sinking Fortunes of so many illustrious Families, may rise to re-establish yours. I pass'd the first Day of the Year at *Dusseldorp*, a City of *Germany*, situated on the *Rhine*, about five or six Leagues distant from *Cologne*, and four from *Juliers*. It is the Capital of the Dutchie of *Mons* and of *Berg*, and belongs to the Duke of *Neuburg*, whose Palace is no despicable Piece of Architecture. That Place is no wise disagreeable; and all who are a little known there, and make any thing of an Appearance, may find good Society and Diversion enough; the *Germans* being, generally speaking, very civil, and express a particular Deference and Regard for Persons of Rank and Condition.

*Nuis,*



*Nuis*, or *News*, in the Arch-Bishoprick of *Cölogn*, situated not far from the *Rhine*, towards the Part where that River receives the Waters of the *Erpt*, is the same which the *Latins* nam'd *Novesium*: It is very ancient, and tolerably strong, tho' not well fortified, and still famous, to this Day, for the vigorous Defence it made against the furious Attacks of *Charles the Rash*, Duke of *Burgundy*, who besieg'd it for a whole Year. The Emperor *Frederick III.* bestow'd on it very great Immunities; and the Chapter of Canonesses there, all Ladies of Distinction, is believ'd to have been founded by a Queen piously dispos'd. That City does not now very much look as if it had been so often taken and re-taken, as it was, during the Wars of the seventeenth Century.

From *Nuis*, or *News*, I went to visit the small City of *Rhimberg*, on the *Rhine*, which likewise appertains to the Electorate of *Cölogn*. The Walls of that Place are good enough, but the Company one there meets is very indifferent. *Vesel*, or *Wesel*, an *Anseatick* Town in the Dutchy of *Cleves*, was in former Times a Free and Imperial City: Its Fortifications are regular, fine, and kept in good Condition, as is likewise the Citadel. This City is far from being disagreeable: Its Situation is at the Mouth of the *Lippe*,  
P. where

where it runs into the *Rhine*, about four *German* Miles from the City of *Gueldres*, and thirteen to the North of *Juliers*. It is but a few Years that the chief Families of *Wesel* have quitted it; and in the Time of the last War, one might there have met with abundance of polite Company, among whom a great Number of *French* Refugees pass'd their Lives very happily.

*Cleves*, the Metropolis of a Dukedom, to which it communicates its Name, probably deduc'd its Appellation from the *Latin* Word *Clivus*, which signifies the Declension of a Hill, by Reason, that it is actually situated in a Place, near the *Rhine*, where three of those Descents are to be met with. It is probably on this Account, that the *Romans* nam'd it *Clivus*, or *Clivua*; and they are look'd on as the Founders of it, and that *Cæsar* caus'd many Works to be carried on there: This is, at least, the Sentiment of divers Authors. The City itself is not very large; but it is well peopled, and built on the Bank of a small River, near where the *Rhine* divides itself into two Branches, and where stands the Fort *Schenk*. A square Tower, and several old ruined Buildings, give sufficient Demonstration, that, formerly, this City was much more considerable than it now is. In a Word, the Dutchy of *Cleves* lies on either

ther Side of the *Rhine*, having Eastward the Dutchy of *Berg*, the County of *La Mark*, and Part of *Westphalia*; Westward, it has *Brabant*, and a Part of the Dutchy of *Guedres*; to the South, the Arch-Bishoprick of *Cologn*; and to the North, the Provinces of *Over-Iffel*, and *Zutphen*. This Country may be about fifteen or sixteen Leagues in Length, and four, or five in Breadth. Several Lords of the House of *Cleves* claim a Descent from that famous Chevalier *Du Cigne*, of whom the *Romans* have made such honourable Mention: But it is my Opinion, that all such of them who have contented themselves with a pure and indisputable Original, have really found it only in the House of *Alten*, from whence are sprung the Counts and Dukes of *Cleves*, as well as those of *La Mark*. The Succession of this Family, being extinct, pass'd to that of *Brandenburg*, and is now possess'd by the King of *Prussia*, as the nearest, or at least the most powerful Heir. King *Henry the Great* would, perhaps, have decided that Affair after a quite different Manner, had not those who apprehended either the Fortune or the Justice of his Arms, put a Stop to the Course of a Life so glorious.

The City of *Juliers*, defended by a tolerably good Castle, and situated on the Bank of the small River *Rure*, or *Roer*, is the same



which the *Latins* call'd *Juliacum*. It is only considerable for its being well fortified, for its great Antiquity, and for having given a Name to all that Dutchy, which is inclos'd between the *Meuse*, the *Rhine*, the Countries of *Cleves* and *Limburg*, the Bishoprick of *Liege*, and the Arch-Bishoprick of *Cologne*. Several Authors will needs have this City to have been built by *Julius Caesar*; but others are of Opinion, that it was likewise one of the Works of *Drusus*: If this is Fact, there is not the least Room to doubt, but that Prince was no less a Lover of founding Cities, than he was of destroying them. The County, or Earldom, of *Juliers*, erected into a Dutchy, or Dukedom, in the Year 1340, had its peculiar Sovereigns, to whose narrow Territories, about three hundred Years since, one of them annex'd the Province of *Gueldres*, by espousing the Heiress of that Dutchy.

I have visited some Part of this last Country, which makes one of the seventeen *Netherland* Provinces. Its Capital is neither very rich nor beautiful: It is built on a marshy Ground, by the Brink of the little River *Niers*, which may be said to serve it for a Ditch; and the Castle, by Reason of its advantageous Situation, appear'd to me exceeding strong. The small City *Venlo*,  
neat

neat and well enough peopled, is, however, nothing near so considerable as is *Ruremonde*, situated on the *Meuse*, at the Mouth of the *Rure*, from which last its Name is deriv'd. One meets with good and sociable Company in this City, which is large, not disagreeable, and has several Monasteries, of all which, that of the *Carthusians* is of greatest Consideration. *Nimeguen*, which by the *Latins* was nam'd *Novio-magnus*, Capital of *Low-Gueldres*, was several times taken and re-taken, in the sixteen Century, by the *Dutch* and the *Spaniards*, and, in Conclusion, remain'd to the former. It stands on that Part of the *Rhine* which is call'd *Vabal*, between *Ravestein*, *Ruremonde*, and *Utrecht*, and deserves to be look'd on as an ancient, strong, and most populous City: There it was that the Peace, in 1678, was concluded. *Arnheim* is the *Area-cum*, of which *Tacitus* makes some Mention. It is a City of considerable Extent, which *Otho IV*, Duke of *Gueldres*, caus'd to be fortified, and was ruin'd by the *Hollanders*, in 1585, when they made themselves Masters thereof. Before the *Spaniards* lost it, the Emperor *Charles V.* there establish'd the Council of *Gueldres* and *Zutphen*: It still continues to be the Station of the provincial Court of *Gueldres*, and the Chief of the fourth Division of that Dutchy, which to

the North has *Friseland*, and a Gulph of the *Germanick* Ocean ; to the South the River *Meuse*, and the Province of *Fuliers* ; Part of the Dutchy of *Clever*, and the River *Rhine*, to the East ; and *Holland*, with the Territory of *Utrecht*, to the West. This Country has but few Mountains, but several fruitful and well cultivated Plains, with good store of Wood and Pasturage. It is divided into four Parts, two Quarters whereof belong to the *Dutch*, and the Remainder to the King of *Prussia*, who, during the last War, seized on it. Heretofore, the Dutchy of *Gueldres* was in Possession of particular Lords, who, having been Governors of the Province, made themselves Masters, under the Kings of *France* of the second Race. One of these, who bore the Title of Duke, in Process of Time united, under his own Obedience, this whole Country, which a certain Heiress to one of the Sovereign Counts of *Guelders*, the Name of which Lady was *Adelaide*, carried over, in Dowry, to the House of *Nassau*, about the Year 1060. This Branch of *Nassau*, one of which Princes, in 1340, erected his County, or Earldom, of *Gueldres*, into a Dutchy, soon after that Establishment became extinct, and the Inheritance pass'd into the House of *Egmont*, which did not long enjoy it ; for *Arnoul*, Count of *Egmont*, sold to  
*Charles*



*Charles the Rash, Duke of Burgundy*, all the Right and Claim he had to the *Dutchy of Gueldres*, and of which the *Austrian Family*, excessively attentive to assert the Validity of its Pretensions, made Seizure; the Emperor *Charles V.* Grandson to *Mary*, pretending himself legitimate Heir to all the Rights and Claims of the House of *Burgundy*.

I stray'd a little from the Course of the *Rhine*, in order to visit the Neighbourhood of the *Meuse*, and made some Stay at *Mastricht*, situated on the Bank of this latter River. This City, which the *Latins* call'd *Obtricum*, and *Trajectum ad Mosam*, is of very great Antiquity, and may justly be rank'd among the best and the strongest Fortresses in the Universe. Notwithstanding its being compriz'd within the *Netherlands*, it is, nevertheless, properly seated in the Territory of *Liege*, and was by a Bishop of that last mention'd City (from which Prelate is descended a Family which a most illustrious Chapter of Canons has not disdain'd to admit) sold to the Emperor *Charles V.* Very probably it is on this Account, that several are apt to place *Mastricht* in *Brabant*, because it continued many Years under the Obedience of the *Spaniards*, who not being able to compel the *Hollanders* to raise the Siege of that Place, in 1633, quitted it to them by the Treaty of *Mun-*

*ster.* The *French Army* in 1673, took it in thirteen Days ; nor could that of the Confederates make themselves Masters of it after an Attack of fifty Days Continuance : The Treaty of *Nimeguen* accommodated many Affairs and Disputes ; and by the eighth Article of the Peace concluded there, in 1678, *Mastricht* was restor'd to the *Hollanders*.

The City of *Liege*, Capital of the Territory, which bears that Name, is very ancient ; and the Majority of its Antiquaries will needs have it to have been built by the famous *Ambiorix*, King of the *Eburoni*, the *Romans* implacable Enemy, who cut to pieces one of their Legions, commanded by two Lieutenants of *Cæsar*, who afterwards took home Vengeance for the Disgrace his Generals had suffer'd. Whether this City was built by *Ambiorix*, or by another Person, nothing is more certain than that it is large and extremely well peopled, and that it is situated in an agreeable Bottom, encompass'd with delightful Hills, which are divided by several Vallies, and fine little Plains; through which take their Course the little Rivers *Ute*, *Vese*, and *Ambluar*, which discharge their Currents into the *Meuse*, before it enters the City. The Prince's Palace is magnificent ; the House of the grand Provost of the Chapter, newly built, is perfectly beau-

beautiful ; and several other Structures and Buildings, as Churches, Bridges, &c. are capable of satisfying the Curiosity even of the nicest and most difficult Eye. There are a good Number of Abbies and other religious Communities, together with eight Collegiate Churches. The Cathedral, dedicated to St. *Lambert* is celebrated for its Chapter, which is frequently compos'd of Princes, Cardinals, and other Persons of the first Quality ; among which are sometimes to be found some of an Extraction indifferent enough : This Chapter, in how great Credit or Reputation soever it may be, comes, nevertheless, far short of those of *Germany*.

Tho' I very well knew that *Tongres* was no longer of any Consideration at all, yet I went to see the Ruins of that unfortunate City, whose Situation is on the *Jecker*. It is a Place of the greatest Antiquity, was first destroy'd by *Attila*, and again, long after, by the *Normans*. It is said, that St. *Maternus*, sent by St. *Peter*, there preached the Gospel, and was first Bishop of *Tongres* : His Successors transferr'd its Episcopal See from thence to *Mastricht*, and, in Process of Time, from *Mastricht* to *Liege*. That poor, ruin'd City, of which I have been speaking, has retain'd nothing of its pristine Splendor, only the Glory of having once been a Place  
of



of great Note, and of being frequently mention'd by *Cæsar*, *Pliny*, and *Tacitus*.

The Country of *Liege* is fertile in Grain and Fruit, and abounds in Game. One cannot much boast of the Sincerity of its Inhabitants, who are insinuatingly affable, and designing. They have Iron and Lead Mines, Quarries of Marble, and of a certain Stone, combustible, fit for Firing, in which Commodity they carry on a very considerable Trade. The Bishop is Lord of all this Province, a Prince of the holy Empire, and assumes the Titles of Duke of *Bouillon*, Marquis of *Franchimont*, and of several other Lordships, which lie within the District of his Bishoprick, in which are reckon'd near fifty Baronies, a great Number of Abbies, upwards of twenty wall'd Cities, and almost fifteen hundred Towns and Villages. This Principality lies between *Brabant*, the *Muse*, the Earldom, or County, of *Namur*, and Part of the Dutchies of *Gueldres* and *Luxemburg*.

The Territory of *Namur*, mountainous, and abounding in Game, is not above twelve Leagues in Length, and somewhat less in Breadth. The City of that Name believ'd to be the *Nematacum* mention'd by *Cæsar*, (tho' that, by some Moderns is taken for *Aras*) is one of the best fortified Places one meets with, and is likewise defended by an exceed-

exceeding strong Castle: Its Situation is between two Mountains on the Bank of the *Sambre*, and not far from the *Meuse*. This City cannot be call'd a fine Place; but in Winter one there finds good Society, and a no small Number of Persons of Distinction. This County, or Earldom, which is one of the seventeen Provinces, lies between *Hainault*, *Brabant*, *Luxemburg*, and the Bishoprick of *Liege*. It has Mines of Iron and Lead, Quarries of divers Sorts of Marble, with certain Spots of Earth, which are call'd *Houles*, proper for Fewel, whereof the Peasants make Turf. The Original of the Name of *Namur* seems no less fabulous than does that of its Counts, whose Dominions revers'd at last in the House of *Burgundy*, which was swallow'd up by that of *Austria*. In 1692, *Lewis XIV.* took it in Person; and three Years after it was recover'd by *William III.* King of *England*. This Province is water'd by the *Sambre* and the *Meuse*. The latter of these Rivers is the same which by the *Latins* was call'd *Mosa*, whose Source I have once seen, near a little Village, from whence it takes its Denomination; which Village belongs to a Gentleman of the worthy Family of *Choiseuil*: In quitting its Source it glides gently through *Lorraine* and *Barre*, &c. beginning to bear Boats at *St. Thibaud*, washes

walhes with its beneficent Streams several Towns and Cities, and in particular *Verdun*, *Sedan*, *Mezieres*, *Liege*, and *Mastricht*; when forming an Island nam'd *Iffelmonde*, and having receiv'd, at several Places, five or six different Rivulets, which considerably increase its Current, hastens to discharge itself into the Ocean, beyond *Dordrecht*, or *Dort*.

I cannot easily prevail with myself to quit the celebrated *Rhine*, without putting a few Words concerning this great River, which, as you know, runs through *Germany*, and the *Low-Countries*. Its Source is from the *Alpes*, in Mount *St. Gothard*, two Leagues distant from that of the *Rhône*. There one sees it arising from two separate Springs, one call'd *Voder-Rhyn*, and the other *Hinder-Rhyn*, as much as to say, the first and second *Rhines*, both which are soon united. This River does not become navigable 'till its Current arrives near *Chur*, in *Switzerland*, which State it separates from the County of *Tirol*; and, after having travers'd the Lake of *Constance*, passing by *Shafouse* and *Basle*, it enters *Alsatia*, when having swell'd its Streams with the Waters of divers other Rivers, it glides by *Philipsburg*, *Spire*, *Wormes*, *Mentz* and *Cologne*, from whence, pursuing its Course through the *Palatinate*, by a winding, irregular



gular Route, it traverses several other States appertaining to different Princes of the Empire; and being, as it were, forc'd to divide itself against the Fort of *Schenk*, one Stream of it takes the Name of *Wahal*, which runs on to lose itself in the *Meuse*, running towards *Nimeguen*, *Tiel* and *Bommel*; the Remainder of the *Rhine* again divides itself above *Arnheim*, where one Half of its Waters enters into a Canal, which, in former Ages, *Drusus* had caus'd to be made; and conducted near to a Place now call'd *Doesburg*, in order there to force a Communication between the *Rhine* and the *Iffel*: But this Branch ought not to assume the Name of *Iffel*, 'till it enter that River some Leagues below *Arnheim*. The *Rhine* again communicates its Water to the little City of *Duersiede*, where the principal remaining Branch begins to be call'd *Lechk*, thus losing by Degrees both itself and its Name. However, it once more, for the fourth Time, divides itself at *Utrecht*, endeavouring, by divers Canals, to find out the Ocean, which it has scarce any longer Strength enough to reach.

This River is extremely rapid, very deep, and its Bottom is of a coarse Gravel, mix'd with Pebbles. Its Overflowings are strangely unaccountable, carrying away at such Times whole Islands, and forming new ones in  
Places

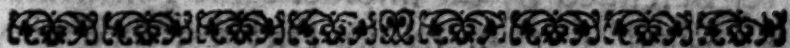
Places where none were ever seen before, disfiguring its ancient Bounds, and rooting out mighty Trees which it transports with its Current, which by stopping it up in one Part frequently causes it to change its Bed : All this puts the Watermen, who use that River, intirely out of their Bias, obliging them every Year to new Measures, searching the Eastward Course ; insomuch that the Navigation of the *Rhine* is not always any of the easiest ; for besides what I have been intimating, it is no wise practicable constantly to keep a Road along the Sides of this River, to draw up the Boats, in their Return, with Horses, on account of the great Number of intercepting Cuts, made by the Arms of the River which form Islands, which in a Manner at every Pace interrupt the Communication from one Place to another. These Difficulties occasion that very often no Goods can be brought, by Water, to *Holland* from *Francfort* and *Basle* ; and the Traders rather chuse Land-Carriages, tho' excessively dear, than to run the Risk of so troublesom and uncertain a Navigation : So that the greatest Advantage which several Countries reap from this River is its defending and securing them from Invasions, since their Enemies cannot possibly pass it without much Difficulty, as well on account of its Rapidity, as for the  
great

great Number of Islands cover'd over with Trees and impenetrable Thickets. Some will have it, that the Sand of this River is plentifully mix'd with Gold; and in Effect, after an Inundation, when the Waters are retir'd, those Peasants, and other Poor, who are least remote from thence, employ themselves in picking up that Gold, which I could never hear was to be found in Ingots: Tho' the Profit arising from this Business is not very considerable, it however contributes towards the Subsistence of those poor People. As to the rest, I never met with any delighted me so much as this: Its Borders are extremely agreeable and pleasant, especially from *Strasburg* to *Cleves*. Throughout this Journey one perpetually meets with some Novelty or other to amuse one's Thoughts; it is either some fine City, a considerable Town, or a well-built Fortrefs, that one discovers; and not seldom a beautiful Castle, belonging to Persons of the first Distinction, as you would say is that of the Count of *Ne-witt*, whose Proprietor is a Nobleman of very high Extraction, and who employs his Revenue in the handsomest Manner imaginable: Besides the large and magnificent Country-Seats, possess'd by so many different titled Noblemen, what a Number of Abbies, Monasteries and Convents of both Sexes,



Sexes, are to be met in this Route, where are, likewise, still to be seen two most ancient and well-preserv'd Towers, in the Middle of the River, one opposite to *Bingen*, call'd *The Rats Tower*, and the other in the *Palatinate* of the *Rhine*, where those Electrices were formerly accusom'd to lye in. Concerning these Towers I have been told some Fables, perhaps more supposititious than is a good Part of what I have heard concerning seven Castles appertaining to seven Brothers, who caus'd them to be built on seven different Mountains, neither of them very far distant from all the rest, on which the Ruins of those ancient Structures are still to be seen. I am going, as I have already intimated, to pass some Time at a Friend's House, in the Dutchy of *Cleves*. I shall, likewise, go to visit another, near *Courtray*, who, perhaps, will not be displeas'd to see me again; after which I think of returning to *Paris*, where in Words I intend to make you some Amends for the Succinctness of my Letters.

LET.



## LETTER XXV.

St. Amand, Aug. 4, 1723.

I Made some Stay in the Dutchies of *Cleves* and *Fuliers*, but quite void of the least Prospect of enjoying a Moment's Repose, to refresh me from the Fatigues of my Journey; being wholly employ'd, during my Sojourn-  
ing in those Countries, in perpetually either receiving, or returning, innumerable Visits. The People there are extremely courteous and sociable: Strangers, when once known, meet with the utmost Civilities; they fare well, are introduc'd into abundance of very good Company, and even converse with many Persons of Rank and Distinction, as well in the Cities, as at their Country-Seats.

Quitting *Cleves*, and re-passing by *Gueldres*, *Venlo*, *Ruremonde*, *Mastricht*, and *Tongres*, of all which I made some Mention in my last, I made a little Stop at the Abbey of *St. Tron*, which is both well-built and well-endow'd. It is pleasantly enough situated, about a League distant from *Leuwe*, which is really the most disagreeable Place to live in I ever beheld.

Q

From

From this last Town, (which is much better defended by the impracticable Fens which surround it, than by its Ditches, lin'd only with Earth) I went to renew my Acquaintance I had with some Persons at *Lowvain*, a *Netherland* City in *Brabant*, nam'd *Lovanium*, by the *Latins*. It is a Place of large Circumference, and very great Antiquity: Some father its Foundation on one *Lupus*, who liv'd in the remotest Ages; and those who go lowest impute its Original to *Julius Caesar*, when it is very likely that neither of them ever dream'd of it: But, by whomsoever it was built, it is assuredly certain, that it is very famous for its University, which was there founded, three hundred Years since, by *John IV. Duke of Brabant*, and enrich'd with great Privileges and Immunities by the Popes *Martin V.* and *Eugenius IV.* There are near twenty Colleges, in most of which are taught all Sorts of Sciences, except Magick, which is not, I believe, to be learn'd in any Part of the Universe. This University has for its Head a *Rector*, who discharges the Functions of that Employ during six Months: He is Protector both of the Students and the Colleges, and has no small Credit even in the City, which stands situate on the River *Dile*, four Leagues from *Brussels*. I take it to be, at the very least, four Miles about, including within its Circumference



rence some very considerable and powerful Abbies, large Gardens and Fields. It has several Churches, and a good Number of Monasteries, in which are to be seen some fine Monuments, and more particularly in the Church of the *Celestines*. Some imagine, that *Louvain* probably derives its Name from *Loven*, which signifies a Hill bordering on a Plain: This was formerly a Castle, near which the Emperor *Arnold* handled the *Normans* very roughly, ten Years after they had there pitch'd their Camp: Houses were built, as we may say insensibly, in that Place, which by Degrees became a Town, encompass'd with Walls, and in Process of Time increas'd to what it now is, and became famous for its considerable Commerce. The University of *Louvain* has been very fruitful in Men of Letters, and celebrated Professors of the Liberal Sciences: In 1587, it was censur'd for its Sentiments concerning *Grace*; and few are ignorant of the learned Disputes it has had with a certain very powerful \* Society, which is zealously attach'd to the Church, faithful to its Friends, and of much greater Utility to a State than many are, per-

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\* If our Traveller here means the *Jesuits*, it is very certain, that they are of the greatest Utility to themselves in particular, and to their Order in general.

haps, apt to imagine : But People frequently conceive a Prejudice rather by way of Temperament, as we may say, than through any just Reason of Complaint they really have against those who are in Power. The Fortifications of *Louvain* are not a Whit better than its Inhabitants, who, without having any one of their *good*, have every one of the *bad* Qualities of Republicans.

Over a very beautiful Causey, I pass'd from *Louvain* to *Brussels*, which is the Station of the Chancery of the Court of *Brabant*, and of the Councils of State, of the Finances, of War, and the ordinary Residence of the Prince, or Governor, whom the Sovereign of the *Netherlands* thinks fit to establish in that Employ. It is situated on the Bank of the little River *Sinne*, or *Saine*, which falls into the *Escaut* by a *Canal*, which is not of any great Antiquity, and which is said to be five Leagues in Length. Part of this City stands on a Plain, and the rest runs up the Side of a most agreeable Hill : It is inclos'd with a double Wall, which, however, is only good in Times of Peace. These two Walls are considerably distant from each other, and between them, on the East Side, stands the Palace, where the Court is kept. The River *Sinne*, which passes through *Brussels*,

*sels*, is no Diminution to the Beauties of that fine capacious City: It waters the Town in several Parts, and joins its Streams into one, in order to fill the great Canal there made, which, in the *Lower Town*, divides itself in two different Branches, lin'd with large Keys, or Wharfs, where are always to be seen a prodigious Number of Barks and Boats, convey'd thither, up the *Escant*, from the Sea. In this City are many fine *Hôtels*, the greatest Part of which are taken up by the principal Nobility of the *Low-Countries*. It has several fine Streets, abundance of well-built Houses, divers spacious Squares, with sightly Fountains and sumptuous Palaces: That where the Governor resides, is on an Eminence of considerable Elevation, and has many noble Apartments, and Gardens belonging to it; which last seem to be kept in good Order, but are not altogether answerable to the Magnificence of the Structure. A Traveller would not be displeas'd with a Sight of the Prince's Palace, the Town-Hall, and some of the Churches; but, among the rest, that of *St. Gedulla*, in particular, is most inviting, being richly adorn'd with fine Paintings, beautiful Statues, and many other precious Curiosities of great Estimation: The Monuments of several Dukes of *Brabant*, together with those of many other Persons of



high Birth and Distinction, are also very well worth seeing.

*Brussels* is, at this Day, the Capital of all *Brabant*. Many are of Opinion, that *Pepin*, Surnam'd *Heristel*, from whom descended the third Race of the *French* Monarchs, was Proprietor of *Brabant*; and that the Emperor *Charlemagne*, and his Successors, were Sovereigns of this Country, till such time as it became the Division and Dowry of *Gerberge*, second Daughter to *Charles* of *France*, Duke of the *Lower Lorrain*, who espous'd *Lambert*, the second of that Name, Count of *Mons* and *Louvain*, which was the original Stock from whence descended the Dukes of *Brabant* and *Lothier*, who at first bore only the Title of Count, or Earl: Their Posterity became extinct, whereby the House of *Burgundy* was enrich'd by a very considerable Succession; the Heiress of which Family, whom one of our Kings of *France* wanted Politicks enough to manage rightly, marry'd Prince *Maximilian* of *Austria*, who, after the Decease of the Emperor *Frederick* his Father, was advanc'd to the Imperial Throne.

The Dutchy of *Brabant* is, as it were, an Island surrounded with Rivers, having to the East and North the *Meuse*, to the South the *Demmer*, which traverses a Part of this Province; and to the West the *Escaut*, and the Ocean

Ocean towards *Breda* and *Bergen-op-Zoom*; It has likewise, on its Eastern Frontier, Part of the Province of *Gueldres*, and the Bishoprick of *Liege*; with *Flanders*, properly so call'd, and part of *Zealand* on its Western Border; *Hainault*, and the County of *Namur* on the South; and *Holland*, with a Part of *Gueldres*, on the North. This Country is about twenty-two Leagues in Length, twenty in Breadth, and eighty, or thereabouts, in Circumference: The Air is good, and its Plains fruitful and well manur'd. Besides Rivers, there is likewise no Want either of Lakes, or of Ponds; though these indeed, I must needs own, are nothing near so considerable as what I met with in *Switzerland*. Generally speaking, the Cities and Towns of *Brabant* are all beautifully fine; and they reckon twenty-six tolerably strong, or at least encompass'd with good Walls; not to mention those of less Importance, and which, in another Part of the World, would not be look'd on as small insignificant Places. This Dutchy comprehends a *Marquisate* of the *Holy Empire*, in which are included *Antwerp*, the *Seignory* of *Malines*; the *Dukedoms* of *Limburg* and *Arsehor*; the *Marquisate* of *Bergues*; the *Earldom* of *Hoostraat*; the *State* of *Mastricht* (dismember'd, as I have already observ'd from the Bishop-

rick of *Liege*) and nineteen *Baronies*. The best Cities in the Emperor's Possession in *Brabant*, are *Brussels*, *Louvain*, *Antwerp*, *Malines*, *Tillemont*, *Lire*, *Arschot*, and *Nivelle*: On the other Side, the *Hollanders* are Masters of *Bergen-op-Zoom*, *Breda*, *Grave*, *Bois-le-Duc*, *Willemstadt*, *Mastricht*, and *Lillo*: This last Place *Lewis XIV*, took in a very few Days, and restor'd it by Virtue of the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, after the Prince of *Orange* had in vain endeavour'd to reduce it by a Siege of fifty Days Continuance.

From *Brussels* I went, on the *Escaut*, to *Antwerp*, which is the *Antuerpia* of the *Latin* Authors. I shall not expatiate on its Original, that being in Effect nothing less dubious than the Tradition is fabulous: I much rather chuse to entertain you with some Account of its Situation, and of the Beauty of its Buildings, than to perplex you with the romantick Stories which are spread abroad concerning the Occasion of its Foundation. *Antwerp*, heretofore one of the finest and most opulent Cities in *Europe*, stands in a delightful Plain, on the Right-side of the *Escaut*, and where that River separates the Dutchy of *Brabant* from the Earldom of *Flanders*. It has still to shew a great Share of the Liberality of its Sov-



Sovereigns, and among much more, that of *John I. John III. and Charles V.* This City has upwards of two hundred Streets, twenty publick *Piazzas*, or Squares, and several Structures, as well Sacred as Profane, the greatest Part of which are of the most consummate Magnificence. All those who know any thing of Architecture, never fail admiring the Workmanship of *Notre Dame*, which is the Cathedral, the Nave whereof is more than four hundred and fifty Feet long. In this Metropolitan are upwards of sixty Chappels, enrich'd with Pillars of Marble, all different, and adorn'd, as is the Body of the Church, with a great Number of good Paintings. The Tower, or Steeple, in which are thirty large Bells, is of a prodigious Height, and the Beauty of its Architecture intirely answers the Magnificence of its three principal Gates, built all of Marble, and finely gilded. The Choir of this Church is said to have been built in 1124, and the same Year possess'd by the Canons, who had given up to *St. Norbert* their Church of *St. Michael*, which was founded by *Godfrey of Bouillon*, at the Time when that Prince was making Preparations for his Expedition to the *Holy Land*.

The

The Town-House of *Antwerp*, compos'd of four great Bodies of Apartments, merits no less Consideration than does the Galleries which surround this Fabrick: But of all the Structures of this City, I give the Preference to the *Jesuits Church*; it is pav'd with Marble; its four Vaults, or Arches, are cover'd with large Paintings, well-gilded Frames and Bordures, and the Walls pierc'd with forty fine Windows, all crufted with Marble: The chief Arch is finely carv'd, having thereon a lofty Dome; and the great Altar, where Jasper and Porphyry have not been spar'd, is no less rich and beautiful than is the Blessed *Virgin's Chappel*, the Pavement, Vault, and Sides whereof are all of Marble, with six Alabafter Statues: The fifty Chappels which are there to be seen, the Portico, and the Houses of those Reverend Fathers, are capable of raising a Jealousie in the finest Edifices of *Italy*; besides all which, the rare Pieces of Painting, done by *Rubens*, attract the Curiosity of all who are Judges of that Art. The Citadel built there by the Duke of *Alva*, one of the strongest and most regular Fortresses any where to be met with, is in Figure a Pentagon, with five Bastions, strong Terrasses, and completely counter-min'd, with good Ditches, whose great Depth and Breadth

render

render the Approaches not very easy : A famous Architect of *Urbini* drew the Design of this Work, and had the whole Management of its carrying on. The fine Port of *Antwerp* is exceedingly commodious ; and Ships may enter into the City by eight principal Canals, the most considerable of which can very easily receive a hundred Vessels : On these Canals are upwards of sixty Bridges. All these Conveniencies ever render a City a Place of the greatest Trade, as this would effectually be, and that in the highest Degree, as it once was, and might still have so continued, had not *Amsterdam* manag'd Matters so prudently, as to seize, in a Manner, on its whole Traffick. During the War, on Account of Religion, in the sixteenth Century, *Antwerp* was a very great Sufferer ; its Churches were pillag'd by the Protestants in 1566. The Duke of *Alva*, instead of restoring to that unhappy City its primitive Tranquillity, by his inhuman Politicks, increas'd its Calamities and Dissentions ; insomuch that the Mischiefs done there by the Spaniards, for ten Years after that General's Arrival in the Country, fully answer the most melancholy Events that can possibly be express'd ; near seven hundred Houses were reduc'd to Ashes in that City ; more than nine thousand Men  
lost



lost their Lives; the Town-Hall, and some other noble Structures, were burn'd to the Ground, and the Riches of a City so mercantile and so opulent, were given up to the Avarice and Fury of a licentious Soldiery, who for three Days and Nights ravag'd it at their Pleasure; which Misfortune began on the fourth of *November*. After that the Confederates recover'd it; and after almost a Year's Siege, the Duke of *Parma* made himself Master of it: Then it was that this able General threw a Bridge over the *Escaut*, and made that famous Dike, with several stupendous Machines, all which are, undoubtedly, less astonishing than was the Conduct of that renowned Captain, who, contrary to the Sentiments of all his most experienc'd General Officers, durst undertake that Siege, with an Army of only twelve thousand Men, and those held, as it were, besieg'd by the Cities of *Nimeguen*, *Brussels*, and *Malines*; all which he afterwards annex'd to his Conquests.

From *Antwerp* I re-visited *Lire*, where I had before made some Stay. Its Manufactures render it a Place of some considerable Traffick, and its Situation is tolerably strong. From the Festival Day of *St. John* to that of *St. Martin*, there is once a Week kept a Fair for Cattle. The City is small, pretty enough, and

and situate on the River *Nethe*, between four and five Leagues from *Malines*.

This last City stands on the Bank of the *Dile*, between *Louvain*, *Brussels*, and *Antwerp*. Its Extent and Neatness give it the Appellation of *Malines* the *Beautiful*; as *Antwerp* is call'd the *Rich*, *Brussels* the *Noble*, *Louvain* the *Sage*, *Ghent* the *Great*, and *Bruges* the *Antient*. Its Situation is extremely agreeable, and the River *Dile* passes thro' it in the Middle, and swelling with the Flux and Reflux of the Sea, renders it a very trading Place. This City belong'd to the House of *Burgundy*, till it was incorporated in that of *Austria*. The Cardinal *de Granville* was its first Arch-Bishop, whose See was founded by Pope *Pius IV.* with the Title of Primate of all *Gaul*. In its Metropolitan Church are twelve Canons, whose Benefices were, in the Year 1000, settled by a Bishop of *Liege*. *Malines* is likewise the Residence of the Grand Council, there establish'd by *Charles*, Duke of *Burgundy*; of the General Parliament; of the Knights of the Golden Fleece; and of the publick Arsenal. The Inhabitants of this City ought, by Right, to be free from all Taxes and Imposts, in Consideration of the essential Services they did to *Charles* the *Bold*, Count, or Earl of *Flanders*, when he  
laid

laid Siege to a certain City on the Rhine.

At *Tillemont* are made tolerably good Laces: One there meets with Linnen which is no wise contemptible, and Disagreeableness enough in the Assemblies.

*Nivelle* is not considerable for any thing except its illustrious Chapter of Canonesses, which, I have, heretofore, seen compos'd in a very different manner from what it is at present. From *Nivelle*, re-passing by *Brussels*, I got down to *Ghent*, the Metropolis of the Earldom of *Flanders*, and an Episcopal See, Suffragan to the Arch-Bishop of *Malines*: It is cut in Divisions by several Rivers or Canals; the *Greater Escaut*, the *Lis*, the *Upper Escaut*, and a good Number of Canals, making of one City many Islands. Its Circumference is of an Extent somewhat extraordinary, and its Inhabitants have, formerly, found Employment not only for their Neighbours, but even for their own Sovereigns, under the Reigns of *Philip of Valois*, and *Charles VI.* the Genius of those Citizens, for many Years, being inclinable to Rebellion and Revolt. As *Cesar* mentions them under the Name of *Gorduni*, the modern Inhabitants imagine that it is to him they owe the Foundation of their City, in which *Cornelius Jansenius*, who was their first Prelate, held a Synod,

in



in the Year 1570. There are a great Number of Churches, Monasteries, Hospitals, and other pious and charitable Foundations, with Communities of *Beguines*, who are not all of them *Vestals*. Here is held the Provincial Council of *Flanders*, first instituted by *John Duke of Burgundy*. In an Edifice, call'd *the Prince's Court*, they shew the Cradle of the Emperor *Charles V.* who was born in this City, which was never a very great Gainer by having that Honour: It is true, the Citizens finding themselves too much oppress'd with the frequent Impositions wherewith they were over-loaded, revolted from their Obedience to that Prince, craving the Protection of our King *Francis I.* who far from embracing that advantageous Offer, somewhat too generously sent his Rival Information of the Motion, and to compleat his Generosity, gave him Passage through his whole Realm, to chastize those Revolters, twenty-five of whose Chiefs were publickly executed, a far greater Number of the Citizens proscrib'd; and the Estates of the most culpable were confiscated; their Artillery, Arms, Ammunition, Charters and Privileges, were all taken from them, and themselves sentenc'd to pay a Fine of upwards of twelve hundred thousand Crowns: And to the End, that his Posterity might  
be

be for ever Masters of the Place, he built there a Citadel, reducing one of the largest Cities in the World to little better than a vast Solitude. To this Day it continues bridled and curb'd in by that very Citadel; and as for the Fortifications of the City it self, they consist in large Out-works, a Counterscarp, broad Ditches, and good Ramparts. Its Situation and Wealth render it very considerable; but its Circumference is too great for it ever to be a good Place in Time of War, without making many Additions to the Works, and pouring into it an Army of forty thousand Men to sustain the Siege.

*Brugen*, or *Bruges*, another City of the Earldom of *Flanders*, stands in a spacious Plain, three Leagues from the Sea, on the Canal which is call'd the *Reye*, which, being divided into several navigable Streams, runs through divers Parts of the City, before they all join in that Grand Canal, which goes to *Sluyse*, or *Sluce*: But as this latter City belongs to the *Hollanders*, the Inhabitants of *Bruges* have made a new Canal, which goes to *Ostend*, which is but three Leagues distant; and the Tide mounting half way up that curious River, conducts to *Bruges* Ships of four hundred Tun Burthen: By these Means the Trade of that City

City is kept on Foot ; but is considerably diminish'd since some of the wealthiest Merchants took it in their Heads to remove to *Antwerp* ; their Removal however is no Obstacle to prevent *Bruges* from being still one of the best and largest Cities of *Flanders*. It has tolerable good Ditches, Ramparts and Walls, which, by a numerous Garrison might be defended with Honour. The Buildings, both sacred and profane, are extremely fine, the Streets broad and even, with several spacious Squares, of which, that call'd the *Market-Place*, where begin six principal Streets, terminating in direct Lines, at the six chief Gates of the City, is by far the most beautiful. *Bruges* has more than sixty Churches well endow'd, of all which, the Cathedral is both the finest and the richest : The Provost of this Chapter was anciently Hereditary President of the Court call'd *St. Donatus*, and perpetual Chancellor of *Flanders* : But that Dignity has been since united in the Episcopacy, and at present the Bishop enjoys those Privileges. The Palace of this Prelate stands on one side the Cathedral, opposite to a large Square, in which is the Town-Hall, which Structure, tho' ancient, shews some choice Figures, and other Pieces of Sculpture, which are not ill preserv'd : On a very  
R high



high Tower, is to be seen a Clock, whose Chimes one hears with Pleasure. I took no less Satisfaction in viewing an ancient Fa-brick sustain'd by Pillars, under which runs Water, and at the same time causes the Boats it brings thither to pass under the said Building. The Merchants of *Bruges* drive a considerable Trade in Silks, Wool, and Cotton; and the Artizans here work very well in Fustians, Tapestry, Silks and Linnen.

I went from *Bruges* to see *Ypres*, which Place derives its Name from a Torrent which runs through it in the Middle. This City has the Reputation of being indifferent rich; and has seven *Castellaries*, or Baronies dependent on it; one of which, named *Cassel*, has alone twenty-four Manours wholly subordinate to it: Its Territory is extremely fertile; but it is situate in a Place of very difficult Approach, which contributes not a little to its Strength. The Cathedral Church is very fine; and it has, likewise, several other principal Structures, and large Squares, none of all which are, however, so regular, as are those of the Senate, and the Clothiers Hall. Its Manufactures render it a Place of no small Traffick. I took some Rambles into the Dependencies of *Ypres*, where I have several Friends and Acquaintance,

tance, whose Humours now seem to favour but too much of the Calamities of the Times: Those golden Days are no more; neither are the *Netherlands* in any wise such as we left them.

*Ostend* is in the same Condition as are the other Cities; not that it was ever any of the pleasantest or most agreeable Places in the World, but it is now very much beneath even what we saw it. This is the most considerable Port the Emperor is possess'd of in the *Low-Countries*; and the Situation makes it a Place of very great Strength. It is surrounded by two very deep Canals, into which the Flux and Re-flux of the Sea give Entrance to the largest Vessels. It has eight great Bulwarks, a large Ditch, divers Bastions, and good Out-works, well repair'd since the famous Siege which the *Hollanders* sustain'd against the Army of *Albert Arch-Duke of Austria*, who could not make himself Master of it till the End of three Years, and three Months, all which time he held it closely besieg'd.

*Newport*, whose Port renders it a Place of considerable Trade, is still as melancholy as I always knew it to be: The frequent Sieges it has undergone have made it much more remarkable, than either the

Goodness of its Situation, or the Beauty of its Buildings. The Air of *Furnes* is always very unwholesom : The City is small, but neither disagreeable nor ill built. There are several Cloth Manufactures, and the Canals keep up its Negotiation. It was between this City and *Dunkirk* that the Viscount *de Turenne* routed the *Spanish* Army, in 1658.

*Berg St. Vinoc*, formerly only an Abbey, founded by a Disciple of *St. Bertin*, is at present a City indifferently well peopled, but much cry'd down for the Badness of its Air, and the little good Company to be met with. *Dixmude* has nothing good but its Butter, nor is it celebrated on any one Account, except for the Fair it holds Yearly in the Month of *July*. This little City stands on the *Yperlee*, three Leagues distant from *Oudemburg*, which Place is also of no great Consideration. One eats there good Wild-Fowl ; and, as throughout the whole Country, one meets with some very honest People.

*Flanders* is a fruitful and fine Province, and the first County in the *Netherlands*, border'd on the South by *Artois*, *Hainault*, *Brabant*, with part of *Picardy* ; on the East it has likewise *Hainault* and *Brabant* ; on the North the *German* Ocean, with the Mouth  
of



of the *Escaut*, which is call'd the *Hont*, which separates *Flanders* and *Zeland*; and to the West it has the *British* Sea, and part of the River *Aa*, with the Coast of *Artois*, which looks towards the Cities of *Bologne* and *Calais*. The Soil is exceeding fat, exuberant, abounding with Pasturage, and very fit for Tillage. The principal Towns of this Province are all encompass'd with Walls, and the greatest part of them fortified: But there are a very great Number which are not so, without being ever the less wealthy and populous. Besides these Cities and great Towns, there are more than eleven hundred Villages, forty-six Abbies, and Abundance of Priories, Monasteries and Colleges. All these Cities, Towns, &c. stand so near each other, that *Flanders* once look'd in a manner, like one vast continued City: But the Buildings now are a little thinner, the Wars having left several large Chasms in this Country, in which are the Viscounties of *Ghent*, *Ypres*, *Furnes*, *Berg St. Vinoc*, and *Haerlebeck*, three Principalities, four Sea-Ports, and thirty-one Castellanies. Some will have it, that *Flanders* took its Name from one *Flandibert*, Nephew to *Clodion*, who is included in the List of the Kings of *France*: Others pretend, that the Name

comes from *Flandrina*, Consort to a certain *Lideric* II. Prince of *Buc*, who govern'd *Flanders* under the Authority of the Emperor *Charlemagne*, and of his Son King *Lewis* the Mild: They add, that this *Lideric* was the second Governor who was invested with the Charge of Grand Forester of the Province. The *Flemmings* are believ'd to have been first converted to *Christianity* by St. *Eloy*, Bishop of *Noyon*, and by St. *Amandus*; at least, it is certain, that those two Apostles preach'd to these People, and administer'd Baptism to such as were not baptiz'd before. It was in the Year 878 that *Flanders* was erected into an Earldom by King *Charles* the Bald, in favour of *Baldwin*, surnam'd *Bras-de-fer*, or *Iron-Arm*: This Prince and his Successors had under their Jurisdiction, a Constable, two Marshalls, a Grand Veneur, a Chancellor, a Chamberlain, four Receivers, and two Secretaries of State. *Mary* of *Burgundy* also united this noble State, together with the other Sovereignities, in the august House, into whose Alliance that Princess enter'd. *Flanders* stands in Need of nothing but Wine, to enable it to pass without the Assistance of any of its Neighbours; nor is there a Spot of Ground in *Europe* more abundant, or better peopled than this Province:

vince: Its Inhabitants are temperate, patient, courteous and good-natur'd: No Nation excells them in scarce any Respect; nor can one any where meet with Nobility which has been more illustrious than those of this Country, or whose Sources have appear'd in greater Purity; notwithstanding all which, every thing insensibly drops away and is annihilated; the Counts of *Egmont* are extinct, nor does the House of *Lalain* any longer exist, any more than do several other noble Families, who for Antiquity were inferior to not one in all *Europe*. The Chapters of *Nirvelle* and *Mons* are now far from being what we knew them at the Beginning of the last War; and Families which a hundred Years ago were wholly unknown, are now so ally'd and interwoven with the ancient Houses, that their pristine Lustre begins to be very much obscur'd.

I pass'd into *Hainault*, of which Province *Mons* is the Capital. This City is situated on the Bank of the River *Trulle*: It is large, and fortified with strong Ramparts, broad Ditches, and fine Out-Works. There is an ancient Castle with divers fine Structures, of all which, the chief is the Palace, where is held the Council of the Province: It is likewise highly celebrated for its Chapter



of Canoneſſes. Various Accounts are given of its Foundation, but few are ignorant of its being a Place of very great Antiquity, and that it has long been of a more than ordinary Conſideration. It has a tolerable Trade, is very well peopled; and if one has a Mind to make any Stay there, one may find good and ſociable Company.

The ſmall City of *St. Guillain* is neither good in Peace nor in War; and *Maubeuge* would not be a jot better, were it not for the Houſe of a certain Intendant there, and the Abbey of Ladies all of Quality, ſome-what like the Chapter of *Mons*. Immenſe Sums of Money have been conſum'd in fortifying *Maubeuge*, without having made a very good Place of it neither.

*Aeth*, on the River *Dender*, is not large, but it is agreeable, well enough fortified; prettily ſituated, and inhabited by People who live not uncomfortably. At *Binche* the Air is exceeding good: This is a ſmall City built on an Arm of the *Haine*, in a Country fertile, and abounding in all ſorts of Game. *Mary*, Queen of *Hungary*, Siſter to the Emperor *Charles V.* built there a fine Houſe, which was ruin'd after the taking of *Marienburg* and *Dinant*: It was again re-built, but it is now known only by the Name of *Marimont*. I was  
neither

neither at *Condé*, nor *Valenciennes* : Those Cities are so well known, and you so often hear them spoken of by Officers either going to, or coming from thence, that I cannot think I have any Occasion to re-confirm what you already know of those Places : And I have confin'd myself not to visit any Part of *Hainault*, but such of its Cities as are no longer under the Dominion of *France*.

*Hainault* is one of the Provinces of the *Netherlands*, which has *Brabant* and *Flanders* on the North ; *Champagne* and *Picardy* on the South ; Part of *Brabant* and the Earldom of *Namur* on the East ; and on the West it has the *Escaut*, whereby it is separated from *Artois*, and from some Part of *French Flanders*. This Province which is an Earldom, is about twenty Leagues long, and sixteen broad : The History of the Country acquaints us, that it was once possess'd by the *Tournesians*, and that its Name has been often chang'd. Some Authors who readily give into Fable, fancy that *Hainault* was, heretofore, call'd *Pannonia*, on Account of the Heathen Deity *Pan*'s being worship'd by its ancient Inhabitants ; but, for my Part, I am apt to believe, that those who make the Word *Hannonia* are more in the Right, deriving it from the  
River

River *Haine*, which runs through the Middle of this Country. The Air is very temperate, the Soil exceeding fertile, and water'd with several fine Rivers: There are, likewise, divers small Lakes, many Ponds and Pools, a great Number of Woods, with Mines of Iron and Lead, and Quarries of Marble: There is also good store of that Sort of Earth, call'd *Houle*, of which they make Turfs for Firing. I reckon'd in this Province twenty-four wall'd Cities, of which *Mons* and *Valenciennes* are the most considerable; near nine hundred Towns and Villages, with several Abbies and Monasteries. Some Genealogists make *Regnier* the first Count, or Earl, of *Hainault*, to descend from *Ergiwoald* a *Maire du Palais* to some of the Kings of *France*: The Succession of the Posterity of that *Regnier*, pass'd into the House of *Baldwin* Earl of *Flanders*; from his Successors it went to the House of *Bavaria*, and at length it came to that of *Burgundy*, whose Fortune it follow'd.

I went to visit the Castellany of *Courtray*, whose Territory is exceeding good and fruitful: One there meets with several Castels either belonging to, or inhabited by Gentlemen of the best Fashion. *Courtray* stands on the *Lis*, between the Cities of *Lille*, *Tournay*, *Ypres* and *Oudenard*. Its Inhabitants



habitants, heretofore, took it into their Heads to celebrate a yearly Festival in Remembrance of a famous Battle lost there by the *French*, in 1302. This magnificent Anniversary occasion'd the pillaging and burning of their City in the eighteenth Year after that Event. In process of Time it was re-built ; and since that it has made itself a Place of no inconsiderable Trade, by its Woolen and Linnen Manufactures. One may live at *Courtray* very deliciously ; and as long as that City continues in the same Condition in which it now is, it may be justly look'd on as one of the best Places one would chuse to pass some Time in. Some will needs have it to have been not unknown to *Julius Cæsar*.

*Oudenard*, nothing near so ancient as that I have been last mentioning, is situated on the *Escaut*, between *Ghent* and *Tournay* : It is well fortified, and carries on a tolerable Trade, were it consisting in nothing else but the fine Tapisstry made there. This City's Original is no ways clearer than those of many others.

The City of *Tournay*, Capital of a small Territory call'd the *Tournaisis*, is exceeding ancient and very considerable : Mention is made of it in the *Itinerary* of *Antoninus*, and one of *St. Jerom's* Epistles. According to the

the Testimony of *St. Owen*, it was the Place of the Residence of the first Kings of *France*; and as Saints never impose any thing on the World beyond the Truth, so it is my Sentiment that you ought to believe it like a good *Christian*. In the Suburb of this City, in the last Century, was found the Tomb of *Childeric*, Father to *Clovis*, the first King of the *Franks*, who settled in *Gaul*. The River *Escaut* divides *Tournay* into two almost equal Parts, both which are join'd by a Bridge: That call'd the *Old City*, is on the left side of the River, towards *Flanders*, and the *New City* on the right Side: This last stands in *Hainault*, together with seven Villages its Dependents, which for several Ages have belong'd to the *Tournaisis*. Within this Territory are counted fifty Towns, or Villages, whose judicial Causes are all try'd by the Provincial Council of *Flanders*, from whence Appeal may be made to the Parliament of *Malines*. Those who view the Citadel of *Tournay* would be astonish'd, that so gallant a Commander as was the Marquis *De Surville*, did not make a much longer Defence, were it not universally known, that this City was absolutely destitute of Provisions at the Time when the Confederate Army last sat down before it.

*Mortagne*, which lies at the Confluence of the *Escaut* and the *Scarp*, is a very ancient Barony, the Lords whereof were formerly, Castellans of *Tournay*. The little City of *Mortagne* is neither handsom, strong, nor well peopled; and this of *St. Amand*, whose rich Abbey was founded in the Reign of King *Dagobert*, about the Year 630, seems to me melancholy and uncheerful enough. I am going to a Friend I have in the Castellany of *Lille*, to pass away two Months with him; where, by a Letter you will oblige me, in letting me know if mine have not been tiresom to you; and if I understand that my Correspondence has been thought ever so little either profitable, amusing, or instructive, I shall with the utmost Zeal, Pleasure and Satisfaction, continue writing.

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